

# Lukas Lehner

✉ [lukas.lehner@ed.ac.uk](mailto:lukas.lehner@ed.ac.uk) 🌐 [lukaslehner.github.io](https://lukaslehner.github.io)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Policy, Inequality, Labor Markets, Political Economy, Policy Evaluation

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of Edinburgh**, Assistant Professor in Social Policy 2024 - present  
**Bocconi University**, Research Fellow 2023 - 2024  
Principal Investigator: Zachary Parolin

### *Affiliations*

**University of Oxford**, Institute of New Economic Thinking 2019 - present  
**University of Oxford**, Department of Social Policy and Intervention 2019 - present  
**Vienna University of Economics**, Institute for Economics of Inequality 2020 - present

## DOCTORAL STUDIES

**University of Oxford**, PhD in Social Policy 2019 - 2024  
Dissertation: [Beyond Unemployment: An Investigation of Social Policies to Empower Workers in a Changing World of Work](#)  
Supervisors: Brian Nolan, Bernhard Ebbinghaus  
Examiners: Simon Jäger, Aaron Reeves, Tim Vlandas  
Thomas A. Kochan & Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award by LERA, 2025  
ESRC Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact, 2023  
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy dissertation grant award, 2022  
SASE Early Career Workshop Award, 2022  
Barnett Prize for the best paper of the year by a research student at DSPI, Oxford, 2021

### *Visiting Positions*

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Sloan School of Management 2023  
Institute of Work and Employment Research (IWER)  
Supervisor: Nathan Wilmers  
**University of California, Berkeley**, Department of Economics 2022 - 2023  
Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE)  
Supervisor: Emmanuel Saez

## PRE-DOCTORAL

### *Employment*

**OECD**, Office of the Chief Economist, Paris, *Economist* 2017 – 2019  
**International Labour Organization (ILO)**, Geneva, *Economist* 2016 – 2017

### *Studies*

**London School of Economics (LSE)**, MSc in Political Economy (with Distinction) 2016  
**Vienna University of Economics (WU)**, BSc in Economics (with Distinction) 2015

## RESEARCH

### *Working Papers*

[“Employing the Unemployed of Marienthal: Evaluation of a Guaranteed Job Program”](#),  
(joint with Maximilian Kasy)

Conditionally accepted at *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*

Kurt Rothschild Main Prize, 2024

Innovation in Politics Award, 2023

[“Countervailing Powers: Labor Unions Against the Buyer Power of Walmart Supercenters”](#),  
(joint with Joshua Choper and Zachary Parolin)

Forthcoming at *American Sociological Review*

[“Reframing Active Labor Market Policy: A Field Experiment on Barriers to Program Participation”](#), (joint with Anna Schwarz)

[“Worker Beliefs about Layoff Risk”](#), (joint with Ishaana Talesara and Arthur Wickard)

[“The Effects of Minimum Wage Increases on Poverty and Food Hardship”](#),

(joint with Hannah Massenbauer and Zachary Parolin)

[“The Good Council: Deliberating inequality in a field experiment”](#),

(joint with Franziska Disslbacher, Martin Haselmayer, Severin Rapp, Franziska Windisch)

[“Monopsony Power and Poverty: The Consequences of Walmart Supercenter Openings”](#),

(joint with Zachary Parolin, Clemente Pignatti, and Rafael Pinto Schmitt)

Revise and resubmit at *Labour Economics*

[“Power, Profits, and Pay: Unionization and Rent Sharing under Consensual Labor Relations”](#),  
(joint with Emanuel List)

[“What Do Unemployed Workers Want: Guaranteed Jobs or Guaranteed Income?”](#)

### *Journal Publications*

[“Declining earnings inequality, rising income inequality: What explains discordant inequality trends in the United States?”](#), (joint with Zachary Parolin and Nathan Wilmers), *Journal of Public Economics*, 2025, 244, 105337.

[“Begging Thy Co-Worker: Labor Market Dualization and the Wage Growth Slowdown in Europe”](#), (joint with Paul Ramskogler, Aleksandra Riedl), *ILR Review*, 2024, 77(5), 659 – 684.

Barnett Prize for the best paper of the year by a research student at DSPI, Oxford, 2021

SASE Early Career Workshop Award, 2022

[“Capturing the COVID-19 Crisis through Public Health and Social Measures Data Science”](#),  
(joint with Cindy Cheng, Amélie Desvars-Larrive, Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Thomas Hale, Alex Howes, Luca Messerschmidt, Angeliki Nika, Steve Penson, Anna Petherick, Hanmeng Xu, Alexander John Zapf, Yuxi Zhang, and Sophia Alison Zweig), *Scientific Data*, 2022, 9, 520.

[“Welfare state support during the COVID-19 pandemic: Change and continuity in public attitudes towards social policies in Germany”](#), (joint with Bernhard Ebbinghaus, and Elias Naumann), *European Policy Analysis*, 2022, 8(3), 297-311.

“Cui bono - business or labour? Job retention policies to prevent mass unemployment in Europe during the Covid-19 pandemic”, (joint with Bernhard Ebbinghaus), *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 2022, 28(1), 47 – 64.

“A Reversing Case within Trajectories of Liberalisation: The revival of neo-corporatism in Austria since 2008”, *Momentum Quarterly - Journal for Societal Progress*, 2017, 6(4), 210 – 229.

#### *Tools and Data*

“Causes and Consequences of Unemployment in the COVID-19 pandemic”, (joint with Daniel Schönherr), 06/2022, <https://doi.org/10.11587/XJNNYA>, AUSSDA, V1.

“Oxford Supertracker: The Global Directory for COVID Policy Trackers and Surveys”, (joint with Mary Daly, Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Marek Naczyk, and Tim Vlandas), 07/2020.

### **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

Total amount awarded: € 1,600,000, of which € 560,000 as PI/co-PI (PI-level).

#### *Awards*

W. E. Upjohn Institute Dissertation Award (\$ 2,500)	2025
Thomas A. Kochan & Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award by LERA (\$ 1,000)	2025
Wissenschaftspreises der Arbeiterkammer Oberösterreich (€ 3,000)	2025
Theodor Kery Prize (€ 2,000)	2025
“Teacher of the Year” Award nomination by Edinburgh Uni Students’ Association	2025
WU Award for special Contributions to the Economic Policy Debate in Austria (€ 300)	2025
Kurt Rothschild Main Prize (€ 2,500)	2024
ESRC Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact (£ 10,000)	2023
Austrian Economic Association (NOeG) Dissertation Fellowship (€ 4,000)	2023
Innovation in Politics Award (joint with Marienthal Job Guarantee project team)	2023
WU International Research Fellowship (€ 6,000)	2023
WU Award for the Acquisition of Third-Party Funding (€ 1,800)	2023
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy dissertation grant award (\$ 7,500)	2022
UC Berkeley Fellowship 2022/23 of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation (\$ 6,000)	2022
SASE / Digit 2022 Early Career Workshop Award	2022
IZA Summer School in Labor Economics travel award	2022
Oxford-Santander Academic Travel Award (£ 1,250)	2022
Barnett Prize for best paper of the year by a research student at DSPI, Oxford	2021

#### *Scholarships*

Scatcherd European DPhil scholarship at the University of Oxford (£ 45,000)	2019 - 2023
Saven European DPhil scholarship at the University of Oxford (£ 25,000)	2019 - 2023
UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) DPhil scholarship (£ 13,000)	2019 - 2023
Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET) YSI conference scholarship (€ 200)	2016
MSc merit scholarship from the Chamber of Labour (€ 4,150)	2015 - 2016
BSc merit scholarship from the Vienna University of Economics (€ 400)	2014 - 2015

#### *Large grants (≥ € 100,000)*

Co-I for “WelGain: Tangible Welfare costs & hidden welfare Gains: unveiling the counterfactual in the evaluation of social programs” (€ 1,030,000) 2026 - 2029  
from the Research Council of Norway with Roberto Iacono (PI) and others

Co-PI for “Labor Unions and Firm Productivity” (€ 249,000) 2023 - 2025  
 from the Central Bank of Austria (OeNB) with Emanuel List (PI)

*Medium grants* (≥ € 10,000 - < € 100,000)

PI for “New Approaches to Evaluating Social Policy Effectiveness in Mitigating Economic Insecurity from Job Loss” from University of Edinburgh (£ 10,000) 2024 - 2025  
 PI for “Reframing training for job-seekers” (€ 59,400) 2022 - 2026  
 from Public Employment Service (AMS) with Anna Schwarz  
 PI for “Unionization and Firm Performance” (€ 60,000) 2022 - 2023  
 from Chamber of Labour with Emanuel List  
 Research England’s HEIF and ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (£ 10,000) 2020  
 through the University of Oxford’s COVID-19 Urgent Response Fund  
 with Marek Naczyk (PI), Mary Daly, Bernhard Ebbinghaus and Tim Vlandas

*Small grants* (< € 10,000)

Strategic Research Support Fund, University of Edinburgh (£ 3,800) 2024, 2025  
 Researcher Development Fund, University of Edinburgh (£ 3,800) 2025, 2026  
 DSPI Student Support Fund, University of Oxford (£ 500) 2023  
 St Edmund Hall Graduate College Grant, University of Oxford (£ 1,000) 2023  
 Co-PI for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) from WU Vienna (€ 4,725) 2022  
 “Fostering international knowledge transfer in higher education:  
 Oxford Tutorial meets WU Vienna” with Severin Rapp  
 St Edmund Hall Academic Endeavours Grant, University of Oxford (£ 675) 2022, 2023, 2024  
 PI for “Training vouchers for job seekers” (€ 9,000) 2021 - 2026  
 from Public Employment Service (AMS) with Anna Schwarz  
 PI for a survey of job seekers (€ 4,000) 2021  
 from Public Employment Service (AMS) with Anna Schwarz  
 ESRC Research Training and Support Grant (£ 2,330) 2019, 2022  
 St Edmund Hall College Grant, University of Oxford (£ 1050) 2019, 2021, 2022  
 PI for “Wage growth in Europe” from Austria’s Central Bank (OeNB) (€ 3,000) 2019 - 2020  
 ESRC Overseas Fieldwork (£ 600) 2019 - 2020

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Invited Talks*

2026 (incl. scheduled): European University Institute, University of Oxford, Halle Institute for Economic Research, Institut für Historische Sozialforschung (IHSF), Public Employment Service Austria.

2025: ILO/World Bank/ODI, Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, University College London, ETH Zurich, University of Konstanz, Ghent University, University of the Philippines, University of Edinburgh, WU Vienna, Public Employment Service Austria, ÖSB, Chamber of Labour Austria.

2024: Senate of Chile, European Labour Authority, European Social Fund Agency, IAB, IZA, University of Zurich, University of Oxford, University College London, University of Edinburgh, University of Bergen, University of Vienna, Public Employment Service Austria, Employment Promotion Agency Styria, Union of Private Sector Employees, Episcopal Unemployment Foundation.

2023: European Parliament, European Commission, MIT IWER, MIT Sloan ESGW, University of Cambridge, University of Oslo, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Bard College, University of Duisburg-Essen, University of Linz, Territoires zéro chômeur de longue durée, German Academic Scholarship Foundation, Ministry of Labour and Economy (Austria), Public Employment Service Austria.

2022: OECD / IZA, United Nations, UC Berkeley Economics, UC Berkeley IRLE, UC Berkeley IES, FEPS, IZA / Sheffield / Econtribute, SASE, Oxford BSG, Economic Policy Club, Public Employment Service Austria, Arbeit Plus, Chamber of Labour Austria.

2021: OECD, ILO, Oxford BSG, Covid-19 PHSM, Bertelsmann Foundation, ETUI, SZEF, Chamber of Labour, Diskurs, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Public Employment Service Austria, Netzpolitischer Abend.

#### *Conferences and Workshops*

2026 (incl. scheduled): In\_equality Conference, World Inequality Conference, ESPAnet Austria.

2025: SOLE/EALE/AASLE, ILERA, ESPAnet, NOeG.

2024: EALE, In\_equality Conference, NOeG.

2023: SOLE, LERA, EALE, ESPAnet.

2022: AFE U. Chicago, IZA Summer School, SASE (2), RC28, ESPAnet, BUIRA (2), Oxford (3).

2021 and prior: ESPAnet, ESPAnet Workshop, ESPAnet Working Group, SPA, PSA, InGRID: Experimental designs in social policy research, Villa Vigoni Conference, Global Forum on Democratizing Work, University of Glasgow Symposium, Oxford (7), ESRC (2), INET YSI.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

#### *Book Chapters and Reports*

[“Ist die Jobgarantie die richtige Antwort auf Langzeitarbeitslosigkeit?”](#), In: Anke Hassel, Wolfgang Schroeder (Eds.), *Was wird aus der Arbeit?*, Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2025.

[“Ist Deutschland eine Streikrepublik?”](#), (joint with Alexander Busch and Kilian Weil), In: Anke Hassel, Wolfgang Schroeder (Eds.), *Was wird aus der Arbeit?*, Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2025.

[“Soziale Teilhabe und Chancengerechtigkeit durch die Jobgarantie”](#), In: Wirtschaftsforum der SPD e.V. (Eds.), *Visionomics - Fünf Säulen für Wohlstand in einer unsicheren Welt*, Bonn: Dietz Verlag, 2025.

[“Trade Union Density in Austria: New Evidence from Tax Records”](#), (joint with Emanuel List), Research Note. Vienna: Research Institute Economics of Inequality, WU Vienna, 2025.

[“Replication Report: A Comment on “Politicians’ Private Sector Job and Parliamentary Behavior””](#), (joint with Rachel Ganly, Linh P. Nguyen, and Alex Sutherland), I4R Discussion Paper Series, Article 203, 2025.

[“Unemployment and Labor Market Policy”](#), (joint with Dennis Tamesberger). In: Anna-Theresa Renner, Leonhard Plank, Michael Getzner (Eds.), *Handbook of Social Infrastructure*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024.

“Gewerkschaftlich organisierte Unternehmen sind produktiver und zahlen höhere Löhne”, (joint with Emanuel List), INEQ Research Note 2024|02. Vienna: Research Institute Economics of Inequality, WU Vienna, 2024.

“Die Marienthal Jobgarantie 2020-2024: Wirtschaftliche und soziale Auswirkungen im Rahmen einer kontrollierten Feldstudie”, (joint with Maximilian Kasy). In: Clara Moder, Hannah Quinz, Dennis Tamesberger, Simon Theurl, Daniel Witzani-Haim (Eds.), *Mit einer Jobgarantie zum Recht auf gute Arbeit. Ansätze fortschrittlicher Arbeitsmarktpolitik in Österreich*, Vienna: ÖGB Verlag, 2024.

“Gewerkschaften und Unternehmensleistung im österreichischen Dienstleistungssektor”, (joint with Emanuel List), INEQ Research Note 2023|06. Vienna: Research Institute Economics of Inequality, WU Vienna, 2023.

“Universal Job Guarantee Boosts Wellbeing & Eliminates Long-Term Unemployment”, (joint with Maximilian Kasy and Jess Kaplan), Oxford, UK: Institute of New Economic Thinking at the Martin School, University of Oxford, 09/2023.

“Das Recht auf Arbeit. Wirtschaftliche und soziale Auswirkungen einer Jobgarantie”, (joint with Maximilian Kasy). In: Elisabeth Kaiser, Marcus Schober (Eds.), *Beschäftigung für alle. Die Zukunft der Arbeit*, 92 – 100, Vol. 4, Vienna: ÖGB Verlag, 2023.

“Tracking Policy Responses to COVID-19: Opportunities, Challenges and Solutions”, (joint with Mary Daly, Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Marek Naczyk, and Tim Vlandas), Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford, 09/2020.

#### *Selected Interviews and Media Quotes*

My research appears regularly in the media and I have given over 100 interviews.

#### *Print*

“What happens when jobs are guaranteed?”, *The New Yorker*, 12/2022.

“Forget free cash, there’s an even more American way to help people get ahead”, *Business Insider*, 08/2024.

“Unconditional job guarantee to be trialled in Austria, in world first”, *Independent*, 11/2020.

“Als Gramatneusiedl die Arbeitslosigkeit abschaffte”, *Der Spiegel*, 12/2023.

#### *TV*

“European Stories: Helping the Long-term Unemployed”, ARTE (TV documentary), 12/2021.

“Plan B: Zurück in den Job. Wege aus der Arbeitslosigkeit”, ZDF (TV documentary), 04/2022.

“Dänen gehen später in Pension als Österreicher”, ORF *Zeit im Bild*, 05/2025.

#### *Radio*

“The Stats of the Nation: Immigration, benefits and inequality”, BBC Radio 4, *More or Less*, 01/2026.

“The many benefits of a guaranteed job program (with Max Kasy and Lukas Lehner)”, *Pitchfork Economics Podcast*, 01/2023.

“Dimensionen: Die Nobelpreise 2021: Wirtschaft. Der Arbeitsmarkt als “natürliches” Experiment.”, Ö1 (radio) interviewed alongside David Card and Joshua Angrist, 12/2021.

## TEACHING

Supervision of 2 PhD students, ongoing	2024 - present
Computational Tools for Economics and Social Science (PhD level) Taught at GESIS (2022), UCL/NCRM (2023), University of Oxford (2024), University of Zurich (2024), University of Edinburgh (2025) <i>Course Convenor, <a href="#">Syllabus</a></i>	
<b><i>University of Edinburgh</i></b>	
Comparative Analysis of Social and Public Policy (postgraduate level) <i>Course Convenor</i>	2025
Evidence, Economy, and Social Policy (undergraduate level) <i>Course Convenor</i>	2025-2026
Economic Issues in Public Policy (postgraduate level) <i>Module Convenor</i>	2024
<b><i>University of Oxford</i></b>	
Statistics for Public Policy (postgraduate level) <i>Seminar Leader</i>	2022
Quantitative Analysis (postgraduate level) <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2021
Social Policy (undergraduate level) <i>Seminar Leader</i>	2021 - 2022
Political Economy (undergraduate level) <i>Seminar Leader</i>	2021 - 2022
<b><i>Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)</i></b>	
Economic Policy (undergraduate level ) <i>Course Convenor, <a href="#">Syllabus</a></i>	2022
International Macroeconomics (undergraduate level) <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2014 – 2015
<b><i>Training for higher education</i></b>	
Advancing Teaching and Learning (ATL) programme by the Oxford Centre for Teaching and Learning and Advance HE, UK	2021 - 2022
Preparing for Learning and Teaching training at Oxford (PLTO)	2021

## SERVICE

**Referee for Journals:** American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Applied Economics, Behavioural Public Policy, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, BMC Public Health, Cogent Economics & Finance, Competition & Change, European Journal of Social Security, European Sociological Review, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, IFAU Working Paper Series, ILR Review, International Journal of Social Welfare, International Social Security Review, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of European Social Policy, Journal of Social Policy, Journal of Social Policy Research, Labour Economics, Momentum Quarterly, Policy Studies Journal, Political Studies, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Review of Development Economics, Scientific Data, Social Policy & Administration, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

**Reviewer for Grants:** Belgian Science Policy Office, Economic and Social Research Council

**Organizer:** UC Berkeley IES panel, ESPAnet panel, Covid-19 PHSM Conference

**Panel member:** Social Science Prediction Platform's Superforecasting Panel

**Board member:** Transnational Advisory Board of the ESF+ project: BRIDGES

## SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

*Data Analysis:* R, Stata

*Languages:* English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (intermediate), French, Italian (basic)

## REFERENCES

**Prof. Zachary Parolin**

University of Oxford

☎ +441865270325

✉ [zachary.parolin@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:zachary.parolin@spi.ox.ac.uk)

**Prof. Nathan Wilmers**

MIT

☎ +16172588598

✉ [wilmers@mit.edu](mailto:wilmers@mit.edu)

**Prof. Maximilian Kasy**

University of Oxford

☎ +436503880412

✉ [maximilian.kasy@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maximilian.kasy@economics.ox.ac.uk)

**Prof. Brian Nolan**

University of Oxford

☎ +441865288895

✉ [brian.nolan@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brian.nolan@spi.ox.ac.uk)

**Prof. Bernhard Ebbinghaus**

University of Mannheim

☎ +496211812030

✉ [bernhard.ebbinghaus@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:bernhard.ebbinghaus@uni-mannheim.de)

**Prof. Simon Jäger**

Princeton University

☎ +16172539299

✉ [simon.jaeger@princeton.edu](mailto:simon.jaeger@princeton.edu)