


ROBERT SCHALL

Postdoctoral Researcher in Economics

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SUMMARY

I am currently a Postdoctoral Researcher in Economics at the University of Bonn. My research lies in macroeconomics, with a focus on quantitative models of heterogeneity, inequality, and structural transformation. I pursued my Ph.D. at the European University Institute.

SKILLS

Software: Matlab, Julia, R, HTML, Dynare, Git, MS Office, Stata, Latex.

Languages: **German**-native, **English**-fluent/CAE, **Italian**-B1, **Swahili**-basic, **Latin**-proficiency certificate, **French**-basic.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Job Market Paper **Wind of Structural Change - The Economic Transformation of East Germany and the Occupational Status Gap**

Exploiting geographic variation in firm liquidations alongside detailed occupational data, we investigate East Germany's post-reunification economic transformation through the lens of social status dynamics; our advanced causal identification strategy reveals that, contrary to naive estimates, intense firm closures cause declines in occupational status.

Thesis Chapter **Agriculture, Productivity, and Land Distribution in Developing Countries**

Using a model of crop choice, I show how inefficiencies in goods markets drive subsistence farmers to endogenously choose low productivity crops, despite the suitability of the soil for such crops.

Thesis Chapter **Education Mismatch Through Early School Tracking Policies**

Track choice happens early in Germany's education system. By analyzing data, I reveal a high prevalence of mismatched students and observe that track-switching is uncommon. Through the lens of a simple model, I estimate the cost of limited track-switching.

ECB Working Paper Series **How well-behaved are revisions to quarterly fiscal data in the euro area?** [ecb.europa.eu](https://www.ecb.europa.eu)
with Krzysztof Bańkowski and Thomas Faria

EDUCATION

since 8/2020 **Ph.D. in Economics** **European University Institute, Italy**
Research in Macroeconomics, Inequality and Misallocation

10/2017–8/2019 **M.Sc. Economics** **University of Konstanz, Germany**
Major in Macroeconomics and International Economics

10/2017–8/2019 **M.Sc. Economics and Econometrics** **University of Essex, UK**
as part of a double degree program.

10/2013–6/2017 **B.Sc. Economics** **University of Konstanz, Germany**
Major in Quantitative Economics - two Erasmus semesters at the University College Cork

WORK EXPERIENCE

- since 1/2026 **Postdoctoral Researcher** **University of Bonn, Germany**
- 9/2019–7/2020 **Trainee, Fiscal Policies Division** **European Central Bank, Frankfurt a.M., Germany**
- Supported country experts and central bank representatives during forecasting exercises of time series.
 - Participated in the development and estimation of a semi-structural multi county model.
- 7/2018–9/2018 **Research Assistant for Dr. Keith Palmer OBE** **Enterprise for Development, London, UK**
- Developed a study reassessing key macroeconomic indicators for Ghana and Tanzania in the context of sustainability.
- 6/2017–8/2017 **Intern, macroeconomic research** **ifo Institute Dresden Branch, Germany**
- Macroeconomic research on regional development and public investment.
- 4/2017–6/2017 **Intern, experimental research** **Los Angeles Behavioral Economics Laboratory at USC, US**
- Recognized with a Natural Science Foundation award by Prof. Isabelle Brocas "Attentional lookups as a measure of reasoning and motivation".
- 5/2016–9/2016 **Intern, Global Competence Center Materials** **HeidelbergCement AG, Heidelberg, Germany**
- Developed e-learning modules on pricing, financial accounting and product costing models.
- 8/2012–9/2013 **Development voluntary service** **Pandahill Secondary School, Mbeya, Tanzania**
- Taught and examined O-Level and A-Level students in computer studies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 12/2023–1/2026 **Matlab Programming Bootcamp and Tutor** **European University Institute**
- Lecturer of a PhD level course and university wide contact person for Matlab related questions.
- 10/2022–4/2024 **Teaching Assistant for Life-Cycle Heterogeneous Agents Models** **European University Institute**
- Ph.D. advanced course taught by Prof. Jesus Bueren
- 4/2022–5/2022 **Teaching Assistant for Macroeconomics III** **European University Institute**
- Ph.D. compulsory course taught by Prof. Alexander Monge-Naranjo.
- 9/2021–1/2022 **Grader for International Economics** **New York University Florence**
- Undergraduate course taught by Prof. Giampiero M. Gallo.
- 10/2018–4/2019 **Teaching Assistant for Macroeconomics I** **University of Konstanz**
- Undergraduate course taught by Prof. Nawid Siassi.