

Felix Geisthardt

Vienna University of Business and Economics (WU Wien)
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Academic Profile

Research assistant with experience in large-scale data infrastructure (EU Horizon) and quantitative research. Organizing PhD socioeconomics research seminar series at WU Vienna. Interests include spatial econometrics, distributional policy analysis, machine learning applications

Education

Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) 2023–Present

BSc in Economics-Environment-Politics

- **Rector's List Awardee:** Ranked top 1% (Winter Term 2024/25) for academic excellence.
- **56 ECTS** completed in one semester (avg. 1.32)
- **Merit scholarship for academic year 2024/25**
- **Relevant Coursework:** Climate Economics, Policy & Justice, Empirical Research Methods, Applied Research Workshop.
- **Accelerated Graduation Track:** On pace to complete degree in 5 semesters.

Friedrich List School, Wiesbaden, Germany 2020–2023

Abitur (Grade: 1.6)

Advanced Courses: Economics, Data Processing

Academic Positions

Research Assistant September 2025 – Present

Global Resource Use Group

Institute for Ecological Economics

Vienna University of Economics and Business

- Research Assistant on EU Horizon Project RAWCLIC

Research Seminar Organizing September 2025 – Present

Institute of Political Economy of Public Policy

Vienna University of Economics and Business

- Co-organizing socioeconomic research seminar series
- Contact person for PhD students and invited speakers
- Attending and contributing to seminar discussions

Research Experience

RAWCLIC

- Contributing to the development of a large-scale open-access database on water-related impacts of global mining activities as part of the EU HORIZON Project RAWCLIC (Developing knowledge on the future raw materials demand, supply and associated environmental impacts induced by the twin transition in the EU).
- Contributions include data collection, data management and quality assurance, and structuring of the database.

- The database serves as the foundation for a machine learning model being developed at the Institute for Ecological Economics at WU Vienna, designed to fill gaps where water data is not reported to improve the understanding of water usage patterns in the mining sector.

Ongoing Research Projects

2024–Present

Unequal Coal Mining Displacements, insights from NRW Germany

- Conceptualized and currently conducting a quantitative study on the socio-economic drivers of inequality in displacement processes managed by RWE in Germany.
- Analyzing and visualizing complex correlations using **R (tidyverse, ggplot2)**.
- Addressing real-world data challenges by applying robust statistical methods, including the comparative use of Pearson and Spearman correlations for outlier analysis and applying power analysis to contextualize results from limited datasets.
- Developed and applied a proxy variable for socio-economic status, average household size to overcome data unavailability, enabling analysis that would otherwise be impossible.
- Found strong statistical significance for average household size against year of displacement
- Robustness checks ongoing, further analysis in progress.

Distributional Effects of EV Subsidies in Germany (BA Thesis)

- Spatial analysis examining whether EV subsidy benefits disproportionately flowed to high-income areas
- Combines 1km² gridcell panel data (2017–2023) with geocoded charging infrastructure rollout
- Methods: Kakwani index, Spatial Durbin Models with data-driven weight matrix selection

Technical Skills

- **Data Processing:** R, Excel, Python, QGis (basic), SQL (basic)
- **Research Tools:** Zotero, Overleaf, Scopus
- **Languages:** German (Native), English (Fluent; academic writing).
- **Software:** MS Office Suite (Advanced)

Referees

Univ.Prof. Dr. Thomas Plümper

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