

Communications

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Press Release

Mannheim, 5. August 2025

Why Order Books Reveal More About Our Economy than You Think

How do order books affect economic cycles? And what happens when "hawks" instead of "doves" steer the central bank? The economist Matthias Meier, who took up a Heisenberg Professorship at the University of Mannheim on 1 August 2025, is working on these questions.

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has accepted economist Prof. Dr. Matthias Meier – previously a junior professor at the University of Mannheim – to its Heisenberg program. As part of the prestigious scheme, he will receive a total of almost 1.3 million euros over five years. Of this amount, 840 thousand euros will go to the Heisenberg Professorship and 440 thousand euros will go to his new research project.

His project focuses on macroeconomic fluctuations – i.e. economic cycles, crises, and the role of stabilization policy. “I am interested in the question of what causes economic upturns and downturns and how politicians can react to such upturns and downturns in a stabilizing way,” explains Meier. His project covers three major research topics: Order books, corporate debt, and systematic monetary policy.

For Meier, the Heisenberg Professorship is also a recognition of his personal achievements. “I am very pleased to be able to continue my research at the University of Mannheim – in an outstanding academic environment, with dedicated colleagues, and excellent doctoral students.” He also particularly appreciates the exchange with other departments such as Business Administration.

About the Heisenberg program

The Heisenberg Professorship, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and named after the physicist Werner Heisenberg, promotes excellent early-stage researchers who already meet all the requirements for a professorship. The researchers are supported by the DFG for five years with funding for material resources and staff and are thus given the opportunity to establish research projects at a location of their choice.

If the evaluation is positive, the professorship will become a permanent professorship, which gives researchers planning security.

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