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Job Talk Series at the Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences

Spring, 2024

Organizer: Johannes Lattmann: `johannes.lattmann@uni-mannheim.de`
Zoom Link: https://uni-mannheim.zoom-x.de/j/62836652493
Meeting-ID: 628 3665 2493
Time: **Online via Zoom, Every Thursday from 16.30-17.30** (15.2.24-23.5.24)

Summary

The primary goal of this Job Talk Series is to connect you with external professionals working in the fields of policy-making, consultancy, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. In the context of this series, I have invited speakers from a variety of companies and institutions including IBM, CEPS, OECD, UNESCO and many more. Through their experiences, we aim to provide insights into exciting career opportunities.

Eventually, this series should inform you about career opportunities outside of academia and additionally provide you with valuable insights about application processes and the day-to-day work life in different institutions.

Each session contains a 15-20 minutes long presentation by the speaker, introducing the respective jobs or institutions. This is followed by a Q&A session in which you will be able to ask questions. These talks aim to be freewheeling and should introduce you to alternative paths besides the academic roadway, by showing a perspective that is normally hard to get while doing your work and your studies.

Schedule

1 Industry & Data Science

Session 1, 15.02.24: Data Scientiest at **IBM** (Cosima Meyer) 16.30-17.30

Cosima Meyer is a senior data scientist at IBM, working with both structured and unstructured data to make machine learning explainable. As a Google's Women Techmakers Ambassador and an active member of R-Ladies Global and PyLadies, she is dedicated to fostering greater diversity in the tech industry. During her PhD studies in Political Science at the University of Mannheim, Cosima discovered her passion for sharing knowledge — both by writing technical tutorials and by developing software, which she also enjoys doing during her working time at IBM.

Session 2, 22.02.24: Data Scientist at **Sopra Steria** (Lion Behrens) 16.30-17.30

Lion Behrens graduated from the University of Mannheim in January 2023, where he was enrolled in the CDSS program of Political Science and working for the Chairs of Quantitative Methods and Social Data Science. As a statistics enthusiast, he now works as a Data Scientist for the IT consulting company Sopra Steria in the field of banking/anti-financial crime. In his day-to-day work, he implements and develops statistical and machine learning solutions on tabular data for banks on all things anti-financial crime.

Session 3, 29.02.24: Consulting at **PD** (Horst von Lautz) 16.30-17.30

Horst Alexander von Lautz is a Manager at PD. The PD offers nationwide consulting and management services on all questions of modern administration and infrastructure. Our clients are exclusively federal, state, local authorities and other public bodies and institutions. Last but not least, the PD itself is 100 percent publicly owned and can therefore be commissioned directly. Von Lautz is an expert in Computational Neuroscience and finished his PhD at Bernstein Network Computational Neuroscience.

Session 4, 07.03.24: Data Scientiest at **Lidl** (Dennis Hammerschmidt) 16.30-17.30

Dennis Hammerschmidt is a data scientist at Lidl International. Prior to joining Lidl, he studied Political Science at the University of Mannheim where he obtained his BA, MA and PhD. At Lidl, he leverages his social science skills and applies them to the retail industry. Working at the intersection of data science and inhouse business consulting, he goes through the same processes that are familiar from academia: Understanding and defining a business problem, formulating hypotheses, gathering and transforming data to train and optimize statistical and machine learning models, and finally to evaluate and test those models in a real-world setting to evaluate whether and to what extent the business problem can be solved using data science approaches.

2   Federal Institutions

Session 5, 14.03.24: Analyst at **German Institute for Evaluation in Development (DEval)** (Mascha Rauschenbach) 16.30-17.30

Mascha Rauschenbach is an evaluator and team leader at DEVal's Competence Centre for Evaluation Methodology. DEval is an evaluation institute that is mandated by the Bundestag and the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) to evaluate German development cooperation. She will share her experience with promoting evidence-based policy, with examples from evaluations on adaptation to climate change and on access to energy in rural Africa.

Session 6, 21.03.24, 14:00: Research Associate at the **German Statistical Office** (Susanne Michalik) 14.00-15.00

Dr. Susanne Michalik is a political scientist who studied at the Free University of Berlin, the University of Konstanz, the University of North Texas, and the University of Mannheim. Since 2013, she has been working at the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. As a consultant at the Service Center of the German government for better Legislation, Dr. Michalik advises federal ministries on the development of regulatory projects related to bureaucracy reduction, the assessment of compliance costs for new regulations, and better legislation.

3   Policy Consulting & NGOs

Session 7, 11.04.24: Policy Consulting at **Center of European Policy Studies** (Sophia Russack) 16.30-17.30

Sophia Russack is a researcher in the Institutions unit at CEPS. CEPS is a leading think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs with an in-house research capacity and an extensive network of partner institutes. Her main research interests lies in the EU's institutional architecture, decision-making processes and institutional reform, with a particular focus on the European Commission. She covers topics such as the conference on the future of Europe, European Parliament elections, the lead candidate ('Spitzenkandidaten') process, and she is currently looking into the pandemic's effect on (European and national) democracy. Besides her responsibilities at CEPS, she is conducting PhD research at Maastricht University, investigating the 'political' Commission under Jean-Claude Juncker.

Session 8, 18.04.24: Policy Consulting at **Germanwatch** (Thea Uhlich) 16.30-17.30

Thea Uhlich joined Germanwatch, a German development, environment, and human rights organisation, in 2021 as Policy Advisor for Low-Carbon Strategies Energy. Her main project is the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI). She studied Social Sciences (B.Sc.) with a focus on Political Science at the University of Cologne and Geography of Global Change (M.Sc.) at the University of Freiburg. During her studies she completed internships at the Deutsche

Umweltstiftung and the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Transport of the State North Rhine-Westphalia

Session 9, 25.04.24: Policy Consulting at **Bernstein Group** (Timm Bopp) 16.30-17.30

Timm Bopp is the leading manager of the Bernstein Group. After working in communication for a German "Hidden Champion" in energy technology and in the office of a member of the German Bundestag, he decided to remain in the political-public sphere but not to continue working in politics. For over 10 years, he has been working at the interface between politics, media, business, and society. The Bernstein Group provides advice with a data-driven and holistic approach to companies, associations, or NGOs looking to represent their positions in the social and political sphere – whether in Brussels, Berlin, or Frankfurt, in ministries, parliaments, or authorities. Timm studied political science, economics, and public administration at the Universities of Mannheim, Copenhagen, and Potsdam.

4   International Organisations

Session 10, 16.05.24: Policy Research at **UNESCO Institute of Learning** (Samah Shalaby) 16.30-17.30

Samah Shalaby is an Education Specialist in the Inclusive Learning team at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) in Germany. She also serves as the Gender Focal Point, promoting gender equality in the institute's programs and activities. With over seven years at UNESCO, her portfolio includes policy development, monitoring and evaluation, evidence-based research, capacity-building programs, and education projects in several countries. Shalaby supports Member States in developing gender-responsive policies and strategies for adult education and lifelong learning. Additionally, she assists countries in enhancing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for non-formal adult education. Since 2017, she has been part of the team responsible for producing the Global monitoring Report on Adult Education and Learning (GRALE), which monitors regional and global development in adult education.

Session 11, 23.05.24: Policy Research at **OECD** (Willem Adema and Sebastian Königs) 16.30-17.30

Willem Adema and Sebastian Königs are both Senior Economists in the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. Willem leads the OECD's work on gender, families and housing in the Social Policy Division, Sebastian works on labour market and social inequalities in the Jobs and Income Division. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a Paris-based international organization comprising 38 member countries, dedicated to promoting economic growth, stability, and improved living standards among its member countries. It conducts research, provides policy analysis, and facilitates cooperation among its members to address global economic challenges.