

TOBIAS FELIX WERNER

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Organization, and Experimental Economics

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Maynooth University

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

since 2026

University of Southampton

Visiting Researcher, Department of Economics

since 2026

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

2025 – 2026

Center for Humans and Machines, Max Planck Institute for Human Development

Associated Research Scientist

since 2025

Postdoctoral Fellow

2023 – 2025

Harvard University

Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow; Host: David C. Parkes

Spring 2025

Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE)

Research Affiliate

since 2023

EDUCATION

Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf

2019 – 2023

Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE)

Doctoral degree (Dr. rer. pol.) in Economics

University of Bonn

2016 – 2019

M.Sc. in Economics

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)

Spring 2014

Exchange Semester

University of Cologne

2012 – 2015

B.Sc. in Economics (Minor: Political Science)

PUBLICATIONS

Recognising and mitigating LLM Pollution in online behavioural research (with Raluca Rilla, Hiromu Yakura, Iyad Rahwan and Anne-Marie Nussberger)

Nature Communications 17, 5578 (2026)

Algorithmic Cooperation: A Comparison with Human Play in the Infinitely Repeated Prisoner's Dilemma (with Bernhard Kasberger, Simon Martin and Hans-Theo Normann)

Games and Economic Behavior 159, 113–130 (2026)

Algorithmic and Human Collusion (single-authored)

The Economic Journal, ueag013 (2026)

The Spoils of Algorithmic Collusion: Profit Allocation Among Asymmetric Firms (with Simon Martin, Hans-Theo Normann and Paul Pülplichhuisen)

Conditionally accepted at European Economic Review

Algorithmic Price Recommendations and Collusion: Experimental Evidence (with Matthias Hunold)

Experimental Economics, 28, no. 2. 298–316 (2025)

Willingness to volunteer among remote workers is insensitive to the team size (with Adrian Hiltenbrand and Fabian Winter)

Experimental Economics 28, no. 3, 492–512 (2025)

A new sociology of humans and machines (with Milena Tsvetkova, Taha Yasseri, and Niccolo Pescetelli)

Nature Human Behaviour 8, 1864–1876 (2024)

What drives demand for loot boxes? An experimental study (with Simon Cordes and Markus Dertwinkel-Kalt)

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 228 (2024): 106755

WORKING PAPERS

Experimental Evidence That Conversational Artificial Intelligence Can Steer Consumer Behavior Without Detection (with Ivan Soraperra, Emilio Calvano, David C. Parkes and Iyad Rahwan)

Human-Machine Interactions in Pricing: Evidence from Two Large-Scale Field Experiments (with Tobias Huelden, Vitalijs Jascisens and Lars Roemheld)

Delegate Pricing Decisions to an Algorithm? Experimental Evidence (with Hans-Theo Normann, Nina Rulié and Olaf Stypa)

Deceptively Framed Lotteries in Consumer Markets (with Markus Dertwinkel-Kalt, Hans-Theo Normann and Jan-Niklas Tiede)

LLM-Assisted Replication as Scientific Infrastructure (with So Kubota, Hiromu Yakura, Sho Yamada, Yuki Nakamura and Samuel Coavoux)

GRANTS & AWARDS

Add-on Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Economics and Interdisciplinary Business Administration by the Joachim Herz Stiftung 2025 – 2027
12,500 Euro

Best Doctoral Dissertation of the Year 2023, Faculty of Economics, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
3,000 Euro

CONFERENCES, KEYNOTES AND INVITED TALKS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

2027

Bundeskartellamt (German competition authority), LIFE Seminar on Artificial Agents at Max Planck Institute
2026

Competition and Markets Authority (UK competition authority), Commerce Commission (NZ competition authority), University of Leicester, AI Algorithms and Markets Workshop 2026 Rome, Machine+Behavior Conference 2026, CRIEI Conference Dublin, Workshop on Supporting a Positive Research Culture in Experimentation at University College Dublin, AI and the Future of Work Workshop Berlin, City London Experimental Workshop, University of Galway, University of Wuppertal

2025

DIW Berlin, Purdue University, University of Michigan, IIOC 2025, ZEW Mannheim, C-BEAR Keynote Annual Lecture 2025, 18th Annual Irish Economics, Psychology and Policy Conference, 4th UK Digital Economics Workshop

2024

Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Thurgau Experimental Economics Meeting on Technology and Human Behaviour, Workshop: Computational Tools for Experimental Economists at Purdue University, Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum Workshop on Computational and Experimental Economics, University of Southampton, Berlin Behavioral Economics Seminar

2023

Applied Science Brown Bag at Zalando, University of Münster, University of Potsdam, ESA World 2023, Workshop on Interactions of Humans and Algorithms at TU Berlin, International Conference on Computational Social Science 2023, EARIE 2023, Conference on Artificial Intelligence and the Economy at Hertie Berlin, Verein für Socialpolitik Jahrestagung 2023, Workshop on Competing with Algorithms and Data: liability and regulation issues at Paris Nanterre University, Connect AI Berlin: Advancing AI Research and Societal Impact

2022

CRESSE 2022, ESA World 2022, Stellenbosch University, MACCI Annual Conference 2022, RGS Conference 2022, Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development

2021

ESA Global Meeting 2021, DICE Brown Bag (2x), DICE PhD Research Workshop, HWR Berlin, NBER Young Scholars Workshop on the Economics of Artificial Intelligence

2020

Verein für Socialpolitik Jahrestagung 2020, ESA Global Meeting 2020, DICE PhD Research Workshop

2019

Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, DICE PhD Research Workshop (2x)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Intermediate Quantitative Analysis for Economics and Business (B.Sc. at Maynooth University)	<i>since 2026</i>
Microeconomics 2 (M.Sc. at Maynooth University)	<i>since 2026</i>
Industrial Economics (M.Sc. at the University of Southampton)	<i>2026</i>
Industrial Economics (B.Sc. at the University of Southampton)	<i>2026</i>
Competition in the Digital Economy (B.Sc. at the University of Potsdam)	<i>2023</i>
Programming Experiments in oTree (M.Sc., Ph.D. at the University of Düsseldorf)	<i>2021</i>
Algorithms: Interaction between humans and machines (M.Sc. at the University of Düsseldorf)	<i>2021</i>
Algorithms & Competition (M.Sc. at the University of Düsseldorf)	<i>2020</i>
Digital Economy (TA, B.Sc. at the University of Düsseldorf)	<i>2019, 2020, 2021, 2022</i>
Supervision of several master and bachelor thesis	

REFEREEING

Nature, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Psychology, Experimental Economics, Nature Communications, Journal of the European Economic Association, IC2S2, Electronic Commerce Research, Economic Inquiry, ICIS, Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Seminar organization – Department of Economics, Maynooth University	<i>since 2026</i>
Mentor and team lead for oTree and experimental tools at CHM	<i>2023 - 2025</i>
Elected representative of the Düsseldorf Economics Ph.D. Students	<i>2020 - 2022</i>
Coordination and Editorial Assistance for the DICE Policy Brief	<i>2020 - 2022</i>

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Zalando <i>AI Research Fellowship</i>	<i>2022 - 2024</i>
Earlier Internships and Research Experience	<i>2015 – 2019</i>
Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods – Research Assistant and Intern (2016 – 2019)	
AXA Data Innovation Lab – Data Science Intern (Summer 2018)	
Federal Cartel Office (Bundeskartellamt) – Intern (Summer 2016)	
Center for European Economic Research (ZEW) – Research Intern (Spring 2016)	
DICE Consult – Consulting Intern (Autumn 2015)	

SKILLS

Programming languages	Python, R (<i>Advanced</i>) Bash, Javascript/Node.js, Java, Julia, Stata (<i>Basic</i>)
Experimental Economics Frameworks	o-Tree and z-Tree
Other skills	Git, SQL, Scrum, L ^A T _E X, familiar with cloud services (AWS, Azure, Databricks, and Heroku)
Experimental Environments	Prolific, MTurk, Clickworker, Laboratory, Field
Languages	German (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Basic), Russian (365+ days Duolingo streak)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Hans-Theo Normann
Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics
Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
Universitätsstr. 1
40225 Düsseldorf, Germany
☎ +49 211 8115297
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