

# Simon Heß

Department of Economics, University of Vienna

Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1, 1090 Vienna, Austria  
[simon.hess@univie.ac.at](mailto:simon.hess@univie.ac.at)

+43 678 780 2437  
[hessS.org](http://hessS.org)

## POSITIONS

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from 2024 **Vienna University of Economics and Business**, assistant professor (tenure track)  
2022 – 2024 **University of Vienna**, assistant professor (non-tenured)  
2020 – 2022 **Goethe University**, postdoc, Chair of Development Economics, M Schündeln  
2018 **Stanford University**, visiting researcher at SIEPR, invited by M Fafchamps  
2014 – 2019 **Goethe University**, part-time employed at the Chair of Development Economics  
2013 – 2014 **European Bank for Reconstruction & Development**, research analyst, Office of the Chief Economist  
2012 – 2013 **University of Konstanz**, student research assistant to H Ursprung and C Alós-Ferrer

## DEGREES

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2020 **Goethe University**, PhD in Economics (summa cum laude), *Prize for scientific excellence and practical relevance* by the German Economic Association's Committee on Development Economics and the KfW  
2013 **University of Konstanz**, MSc in Economics  
2011 **University of Konstanz**, BSc in Economics, visiting the American University in Cairo during 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

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*Shared e-scooter services and road safety: Evidence from six European countries* (with C Cloud and J Kasinger)  
**European Economic Review**, [doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2023.104593](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2023.104593)

*Environmental Effects of Development Programs: Experimental Evidence from West African Dryland Forests* (with M Schündeln and D Jaimovich)  
**Journal of Development Economics**, vol. 153: 102737, 2021, [doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2021.102737](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2021.102737)

*Development Projects and Economic Networks: Lessons From Rural Gambia* (with M Schündeln and D Jaimovich)  
**The Review of Economic Studies**, vol. 88(3): 1347–1384, 2021, [doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdaa033](https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdaa033)

*Randomization Inference with Stata: A Guide and Software* 296 citations  
**Stata Journal**, vol. 17(3): 630–651, 2017, [doi.org/10.1177/1536867X1701700306](https://doi.org/10.1177/1536867X1701700306)

## WORKING PAPERS

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*Political Influence through Kinship Networks: Evidence from the Universe of Registered Voters in Nepal*  
with P Pathak and M Schündeln (Goethe University).

*Causal evidence that herpes zoster vaccination reduces the incidence of dementia* [medRxiv 2023.05.23.23290253](https://medrxiv.org/lookup/doi/10.1101/2023.05.23.23290253)  
with M Eytting (Mainz and Stanford) and M Xie (Heidelberg and Stanford), P Geldsetzer (Stanford).

*The effect of herpes zoster vaccination on the occurrence of deaths due to dementia in England and Wales* [medRxiv 2023.09.08.23295225](https://medrxiv.org/lookup/doi/10.1101/2023.09.08.23295225)  
with F Michalik (Heidelberg and Stanford), M Eytting (Mainz and Stanford) and M Xie (Heidelberg and Stanford), S Chung (Stanford), P Geldsetzer (Stanford).

*Altruism and the Topology of Transfer Networks*, [CEPR Discussion Paper 16561](https://cepr.org/discussion/papers/16561)  
with M Fafchamps, (Stanford).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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*Social Networks and the Effect of Political Debates in Young Democracies: Evidence from Gambia*  
with J Detemple, and M Schündeln (both Goethe University Frankfurt) and H Jawara (University of The Gambia)

*German Colonialism*  
with SO Becker, N Jahangirli, and R Ramachandran (Monash University)

## TEACHING

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### As course instructor

- 2022, 2023 **Introductory Econometrics**, undergraduate lecture with ~100 students, University of Vienna  
Sept 2023 **Causal inference**, 3-day mini course, Monash University Malaysia  
Spring 2023 **Causal inference**, undergraduate course with 38 students, University of Vienna  
Spring 2022 **Development Economics: Microeconomic Aspects of Development**, MSc lecture, Goethe University; co-taught with M Schündeln  
Fall 2021 **Microeconomic Methods and Applications**, MSc seminar, Goethe University  
2020, 2021 **Empirical Development Economics** undergraduate lecture, Goethe University; co-taught with M Schündeln

### As teaching assistant

- 2014 – 2020 **Development Economics II, Development Economics III, Evaluation of Development Policy**, MSc courses, Goethe University  
2008 – 2013 **Microeconomics II – Game Theory** (undergraduate), **Advanced Microeconomics I** (MSc), **Mathematics for Economists I** (undergraduate), **Mathematics for Economists II** (undergraduate), University of Konstanz

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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- 2023 Small research grant, University of Vienna € 2,000  
2021 Dissertation award by the KfW Development Bank and the Development Group of the German Economic Association, € 5,000  
2020 Sturm & Drang Prize 2020 for the best publication by a young researcher of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Goethe University, € 1,500  
2019 – 2022 Joachim Herz fellow for interdisciplinary economics, € 12,500  
2013 – 2014 Carlo Schmid fellow for placements in international organizations  
2013 VEUK-Award for the best graduate in economics at the University of Konstanz  
2011 – 2013 Scholarships from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation) and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

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### Presentations and invited seminars

**2024:** Central European University (planned); **2023:** Vienna University of Economics and Business; Standing Committee on Development Economics of the German Economic Association; University of Passau; TU Dresden (planned); **2022:** Trinity College Dublin; University of Vienna; HEC Lausanne; DIME/Worldbank; Annual Conference of the Research Group on Development Economics of the German Economic Association; **2021:** Theory Seminar at Aix Marseille School of Economics; **2020:** 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the Econometric Society; Annual Meeting of the European Economic Association; **2019 and before:** CSAE Conference 2019 at Oxford University; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Research Seminar; Workshop on Geodata and Economics 2018 by the TU Braunschweig and the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW); 70<sup>th</sup> European Meeting of the Econometric Society; Annual Conference of the Research Group on Development Economics of the German Economic Association 2016

### Scientific refereeing

Journal of Development Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Land Use Policy, Party Politics

### Affiliations and memberships

[German Economic Association](#) (Verein für Socialpolitik); [Research Committee on Development Economics of the German Economic Association](#)