

ASS. PROF. DR. SARAH BERENS

University of Innsbruck
Department of Political Science
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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

University of Innsbruck

Department of Political Science
Assistant Professor for Political Economy (tenure track) May 2020 – present

EDUCATION

University of Cologne

Cologne Center for Comparative Politics
Senior Research Fellow Dec. 2013 – April 2020

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and University of Cologne (IMPRS-SPCE)

Cologne Center for Comparative Politics
Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science Oct. 2010 – Dec. 2013
Advisors: Prof. Dr. André Kaiser and Prof. Dr. Marius Busemeyer

Columbia University

Department of Political Science, Visiting Scholar
Advisor: Prof. Isabela Mares, Ph.D. Nov. 2011 – June 2012

Humboldt University of Berlin

M.A. Social Sciences
Advisor: Prof. Ellen Immergut, Ph.D. Oct. 2008 – Sept. 2010

Duke University

Department of Political Science, Graduate Studies,
Political Science Aug. 2009 – May 2010

University of Konstanz

B.A. Political and Administrative Science Oct. 2005 – Sept. 2008

Sciences Po Bordeaux (IEP)

Undergraduate Studies, Political Science Sept. 2007 – Dec. 2007

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative and International Political Economy, Social Policy and Redistribution, Inequality, Individual Preferences, Political Behavior, Violence and Crime, Tax Compliance/Informal Economy, Migration, Development Economics, Latin America, Survey Experiments

PUBLICATIONS - PEER REVIEWED

Altamirano, Melina, Berens, Sarah and, Ley, Sandra (2022): Security or Social Spending? Perceptions of Insecurity, Victimization, and Policy Priorities in Mexico and Brazil. *Political Studies* (forthcoming).

Altamirano, Melina, Berens, Sarah and, Deeg, Franziska (2022): Varieties of Economic Vulnerability: Evidence on Social Policy Preferences and Labor Informality from Mexico. *Latin American Politics & Society*, 64(2), 139-168.

Berens, Sarah and Ruth-Lovell, Saskia P. (2021): How Clientelism Hinders Progressive Social Policy in Latin America. *Acta Politica* (online first).

Altamirano, Melina, Berens, Sarah and Ley, Sandra (2020): The Welfare State amid Crime: How victimization and fear of crime affect preferences for redistribution in Latin America. *Politics & Society*, Vol. 48(3): 389–42.

Winner of the 2021 [Seligson Prize](#) at Vanderbilt University for the best scholarly work using LAPOP's AmericasBarometer data published in the last two calendar years.

Berens, Sarah (2020): [Opting for Exit: Informalization, Social Policy Discontent, and Lack of Good Governance](#) *Latin American Politics & Society*, Vol 62, No2: 1–28.

Berens, Sarah and Kemmerling, Achim (2019) [Labor Divides, Informality and Regulation: The public opinion on labor law in Latin America](#), *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, Vol. 11(1) 23–48.

Berens, Sarah and Dallendörfer, Mirko (2019) [Apathy or Anger? How Crime Experience Affects Individual Vote Intention in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), *Political Studies*, Vol. 67(4): 1010–1033.

Berens, Sarah and Gelepithis, Margarita (2019) [Welfare State Structure, Inequality and Public Attitudes towards Progressive Taxation](#). *Socio-Economic Review*, Vol. 17(4): 823–850.

Berens, Sarah and von Schiller, Armin (2017): [Taxing Higher Incomes - What makes the high-income earners consent to more progressive taxation in Latin America?](#), *Political Behavior*, Vol. 39: 703–729.

Berens, Sarah (2016) [Crowding Out or Welfare Promotion? How Foreign Aid Affects Social Expenditures in Latin American Welfare Systems](#). *Social Policy & Administration*, Vol. 50(3): 353-378

Berens, Sarah (2015) [Preferences on Redistribution in Fragmented Labor Markets in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, Vol. 7(3): 117–156.

Berens, Sarah (2015) [Between Exclusion and Calculating Solidarity? Preferences for Private versus Public Welfare Provision and the Size of the Informal Sector](#). *Socio-Economic Review*, Vol. 13(4): 651–678.

WORKING PAPERS AND PROJECTS

Berens, Sarah and Deeg, Franziska (2022): Moving North and Coming Back: Migration and Social Policy Preferences.

Conditional accept at Politics & Society

Berens, Sarah and Karim, Sabrina: Conflict or Crime? How victimization shapes preferences for public goods provision in Liberia.

R&R at Journal of Peace Research

Berens, Sarah and Bastiaens, Ida: Funding Universal Public Goods in the Globalized World: Who Will Carry the Tax Burden?

R&R at Studies in Comparative International Development

Berens, Sarah and Brady, David: Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Heterogeneity and Preferences for Public Goods.

under review

López-Cariboni, Santiago, Berens, Sarah, Menéndez, Irene, and von Schiller, Armin: Deferring payment: The compliance effects of communicating state flexibility in the residential electricity sector.

working paper

Berens, Sarah: Weak States - Strong Preferences? How the Reliability of the State Influences Social Policy Preferences.

working paper

Berens, Sarah and von Schiller, Armin: Many reasons to 'not' comply: How government corruption and weak state capacity erode the fiscal contract in Sub-Saharan Africa.

working paper

Berens, Sarah and Gelepithis, Margarita: Public Support for Embedded Liberalism in the United States: A Survey Experiment.

working paper

López García, Ana, Maydom, Barry and Berens, Sarah: Migrants and Fiscal Policy Attitudes: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Mexico.

working paper

Baker, Andy, Berens, Sarah, and Feierherd, Germán: Class/income and redistributive preferences: does item wording matter?

project

Berens, Sarah and Scharpf, Adam: Covert Repression and Voting Behavior: The Case of Argentina's Dirty War.

project

PRE-ANALYSIS PLANS

López García, Ana, Maydom, Barry and Berens, Sarah: [Unprotected, victimized or opted-out: How violence, labour informality and remittances affect public policy preferences in Mexico](#). ID: 20220115AA.

Pre-Analysis Plan registered on EGAP

Berens, Sarah and Gelepithis, Margarita: [Determinants of Public Support for Embedded Liberalism in the United States: A Survey Experiment](#). ID: 20191116AA.

Pre-Analysis Plan registered on EGAP

Berens, Sarah and Deeg, Franziska: [Hierarchy of Problem Pressure? The layering and gradation of risks on demand for social protection in Brazil](#). ID: 20190724AD.

Pre-Analysis Plan registered on EGAP

Berens, Sarah and Deeg, Franziska: [Trade, Migration and Social Policy: How international trade risks and migration flows affect welfare deservingness perception in Brazil](#). ID: 20190724AC.

Pre-Analysis Plan registered on EGAP

Deeg, Franziska and Berens, Sarah: [Corruption and Social Policy How corruption allegation influences support for social and security policies in Brazil](#). ID: 20190724AB.

Pre-Analysis Plan registered on EGAP

Berens, Sarah and Franziska Deeg: [Pre-Analysis Plan: The Wall and the Welfare State How changes in trade interdependency between the U.S. and Mexico affect risk perception and individual social policy preferences](#). ID: 20181108AB.

Pre-Analysis Plan registered on EGAP

PUBLICATIONS - NON-PEER REVIEWED

Berens, Sarah and Gelepithis, Margarita (2020) What do People Want? Explaining Voter Preferences on Tax Policy. *The Politics of Taxation*, eds. Laura Seelkopf & Lukas Hakelberg. (forthcoming).

Baker, Andy, Sarah Berens, Germán Feierherd and Irene Menéndez González (2020) [Labor Informality and its Political Consequences in the 2018/19 LAPOP](#). *Insights Series*, No. 144: 1-16.

Berens, Sarah (2019) [Democracies in Peril: Taxation and Redistribution in Globalizing Economies](#). By Ida Bastiaens and Nita Rudra. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018. 342p. \$99.99 cloth, \$27.99 paper. *Perspectives on Politics*, (forthcoming).

Berens, Sarah and Menéndez, Irene (2019) "Is informal work eroding compliance?" in: Santiago LÃ³pez-Cariboni (guest editor): Political economy of informality in BRIC countries. Book series edited by Edward Mansfield and Nita Rudra, World Scientific Publishing.

Berens, Sarah and Ruth, Saskia P. (2019), “Universal Social Policies and Clientelistic Party Strategies in Latin America”, in: Ruth, Saskia P., and Maria Spirova (Eds.), *Clientelism and Democratic Governance in Comparative Perspective*, Colchester: ECPR Press.

Berens, Sarah and Ruth, Saskia P. (2015) Políticas sociales progresistas y estrategias partidarias clientelares: ¿Reconciliando lo irreconciliable? *condistintosacentos.com*, Instituto de Iberoamérica, Universidad de Salamanca, ([blog post](#)).

Berens, Sarah (2014) Rezension: Faust, J., & Michaelowa, K. (Hrsg.). (2013). Politische Ökonomie der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 274 S., ISBN: 978-3848704286. *Zeitschrift für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik*, 7: 265–267.

METHODS TRAINING

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics. University of Cologne, July 4th 2017

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Richard Traummüller.

Experiments. University of Cologne, May 24th 2017

Lecturer: Prof. Macartan Humphreys PhD.

Multilevel Analysis. Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), December 11th-14th 2012

Lecturer: Prof. Andrew Fullerton.

Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys. Columbia University, Spring Term 2012

Lecturer: Prof. Andrew Gelman.

Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling with Focus on Cross-Cultural Comparisons. University of Cologne, October 2011

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. Elmar Schlüter and Prof. Dr. Peter Schmidt.

Causal Analysis. University of Cologne, Spring Term 2011

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Andreß.

Multiple Regression Analysis. ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Ljubljana 2011

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kittel.

Applied Microeconometrics – Program Evaluation. University of Cologne, Fall Term 2010

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Marco Caliendo.

RESEARCH VISITS

Vanderbilt University

Visiting Scholar, Jan-Feb 2019, Nashville, TN, USA.

Host: Prof. Noam Lupu Ph.D.

Cornell University

Visiting Scholar, Oct-Nov 2018, Ithaca, NY, USA.

Host: Prof. Kenneth Roberts Ph.D.

UC Riverside

Visiting Scholar for Project Meeting, Sept. 4th-15th 2017, Riverside, CA, USA

Host: Prof. David Brady Ph.D.

Inter-American Development Bank

Visiting Scholar, Sept. 5th-8th 2016, Washington, D. C., USA.

Host: Fabiana Machado, Ph.D.

University of Queensland

Institute for Social Science Research, Life Course Centre

Visiting Scholar and LCC Fellow, October 2015, Brisbane, Qld, Australia.

Host: Prof. Lorraine Mazerolle, Ph.D.

INVITED TALKS

Political Economy Research Seminar, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, April 28th 2022.

Peace Science OPSC, Vanderbilt University, April 24th 2020.

Department of Political Science – Research Seminar, Johannes-Gutenberg University of Mainz, December 11th 2019.

PSAC seminar, Cornell University, October 26th 2018.

The left hand and the right hand: Linking the politics of social welfare and crime control - Workshop organized by Peter Starke and Marianne Ulriksen from University of Southern Denmark, Copenhagen, December 13th-14th 2017.

Comparative Political Economy Research Workshop (CPE, lecture series), University of Konstanz, Oct. 30th 2017.

Political Economy Research Group (PERG) seminar at Central European University, Budapest, Nov. 24th 2016.

University of Bremen, Final Conference of the Collaborative Research Center 597 "Transformations of the State" Panel 5 'Social and Political Effects of Welfare State Transformation', April 3rd-4th 2014.

University of Konstanz, Chair of Political Science of Prof. Dr. Marius Busemeyer, July 11th 2013.

CONFERENCES

EPSA, Prague, 2022.

APSA Seattle, USA, September 2021 (virtual conference).

EPSA, 2021 (virtual conference).

REPAL Annual Conference, July, 2021, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, (virtual conference).

MPSA Chicago, USA, April 14th-18th 2021 (virtual conference).

Swiss Political Science Association Annual Conference, Bern Feb. 4th-5th 2021 (virtual conference).

"Politics of Crime Control and Social Protection", UoC virtual workshop, October 15-16 2020, co-organized with Franziska Deeg.

APSA, San Francisco, USA, 2020 (virtual conference).

EPSA, Prague, Czech Republic, 2020 (canceled due to COVID 19).

MPSA Chicago, USA, 2020 (canceled due to COVID 19).

Causal Mechanisms in the Analysis of Social Policy Dynamics, CRC 1342 "Global Dynamics of Social Policy", November 7th-8th 2019, University of Bremen, Germany.

Handbook Workshop: The Politics of Taxation. October 10th-11th 2019, University of Bamberg, Germany.

EPSA, Belfast, June 20th-22nd 2019.

Annual conference of the DVPW Political Economy Section, May 23rd-24th 2019, University of Konstanz, Germany.

"Societies under Stress" Workshop at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, Nov 29th-Dec 2nd 2018, co-organized with Sarah Brooks (OSU) and Georg Wenzelburger (Technical University Kaiserslautern).

EPSA, Vienna, June 21st-23rd 2018.

MPSA, Chicago, April 4th-8th 2018.

APSA, San Francisco, USA, Aug. 30th-Sept. 3rd 2017.

EPSA, Milan, Italy, June 22nd-24th 2017.

Red de Economía Política de América Latina (REPAL), 4th Annual Conference, Lima, Peru, April 27th-28th 2017.

LASA, Lima, Peru, April 29th-May 1st 2017.

APSA, Philadelphia, Sept. 1st-4th-2016.

EPSA, Brussels, 23rd-26th 2016.

New Approaches to the Political Economy of Social Policy, Workshop organized together with Irene Menéndez and Santiago López Cariboni, University of Cologne, May 23rd-24th 2016.

MPSA, Chicago, April 6th-10th 2016.

Mexican Politics & Beyond, Workshop, Discussant, University of Zurich, February 16th 2016.

Social Policy & Clientelism, Workshop at CCCP, University of Cologne, organized together with Prof. Herbert P. Kitschelt (Duke University), November 7th 2015.

EPSA, Vienna, June 25th-27th 2015.

ECPR Joint Sessions, University of Warsaw, Poland, March 29th-April 2nd 2015 in the panel: The New Politics of Taxation.

DVPW Comparative Political Science Section Conference: World Regions Compared: Polity, Politics and Policy, GIGA Hamburg, February 25th-27th 2015.

The Transformation of Latin American Social Policy: Dynamics, Institutions and Outcomes, University of Bath, November 7th 2014.

ECPR General Conference, Glasgow, September 3rd-6th 2014.

ECPR Joint Sessions, University of Salamanca, Spain, April, 10th-15th 2014.
in Panel: Political Clientelism and the Quality of Public Policy.

ESPAnetWorkshop, Privatization and Marketization of Social Services and Social Programs. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, November 14th-15th 2013.

Justice, Taxation and Social Policy, University of Salzburg, August 22th-24th 2013.

SASE Mailand, June 27th-29th 2013.

IWEC - Shifting to Post-Crisis Welfare States in Europe? Berlin, June 4th-5th 2013.

MPSA Chicago, April 11th-14th 2013.

ECPR Joint Sessions, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, March 11th-16th 2013
in Panel: Socio-Economic Inequalities and Cleavages in Post-Modern Societies.

ECSR/EQUALSOC Conference on Economic Change, Quality of Life and Social Cohesion
Poster Session, University of Stockholm, September 24th-26th 2012.

ECPR Graduate Student Conference. Jacobs University, Bremen July 4th-6th 2012.

NYU Graduate Student Conference on Political Economy,
The Alexander Hamilton Center for Political Economy at New York University, May 9th 2012.

Comparative Politics Workshop, Political Science Department
Columbia University, December 12th 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Certificate (50 hours of courses + seminar paper and practical semester) awarded by the University of Innsbruck, March 2022

MA Level:

Risks & Politics

University of Cologne, MA seminar: Winter term 2019/20

Research Logic & Research Design

University of Cologne, MA seminar: Summer term 2019, University of Innsbruck, Summer term 2021

Comparative Political Institutions

University of Cologne, MA lecture: Winter term 2016/17, Winter term 2017/18

The Political Economy of Public Finance in Developing Countries

University of Cologne, MA/PhD course: Summer term 2016

Distributive Politics

University of Cologne, MA/PhD course: Winter term 2014/15; 2015/16; Summer term 2017;
Winter term 2018/19

Social Policy in Developing Economies

University of Cologne, MA course: Summer term 2014

BA Level:

Survey Methodology in Social Policy Research

University of Innsbruck, BA course: Winter 2020/21

The Politics of Development

University of Cologne, BA course: Summer term 2018, BA course Summer term UIBK 2020, Winter

2020/21

Comparative electoral- and party systems (in German)
University of Cologne, BA course: Summer term 2015

The Political System of the Federal Republic of Germany from a Comparative Perspective (in German)
University of Cologne, BA course: Winter term 2012/2013; Winter term 2013/2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Youth League Department, Municipal Government Si Fang District Qingdao – Internship, Qingdao, China, January – March 2008.

Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), student assistant, research unit: Markets and Politics – The Future of Fiscal Federalism, Dr. Benny Geys, Feb. 2009 – July 2009.

Goethe Institut Osaka – Internship, Osaka, Japan, April – June 2007.

Kyoto Gaidai – University of Foreign Studies, teaching assistant for English and German as a foreign language, Kyoto, Japan, March – June 2007.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Tiroler Wissenschaftsförderung, Land Tirol, research grant: “Varieties of Violence: How crime affects public policy preferences in developing countries.”

Grant: 15.000€

NetEx Grant 2019, University of Cologne, to organize an international workshop at University of Cologne in 2020.

Grant: 4.995€

ECONtribute research grant, University of Cologne, to conduct a survey experiment on MTurk in the United States.

Grant: 3.000€

NetEx Grant 2018, University of Cologne, for research stay at Vanderbilt University Jan-Feb 2019.

Grant: 4.970€

Fritz Thyssen Foundation: Workshop Grant to organize “Societies under Stress: Investigating the relationship between welfare and penal policies in an era of rising insecurities” at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, Nov 29th to Dec 2nd 2018, together with Prof. Dr. Georg Wenzelburger

Grant: 10.000€

Collaborative Research Center 1342 “Global Dynamics of Social Policy”, Project B03 “International Complementarities in the Development of National Welfare States: The Transatlantic Sphere 1870-2020” as principal investigator together with Prof. Dr. Philip Manow (University of Bremen), funded by the German Research Foundation, project period 2018-2021, approved on Nov 27th 2017:

approximately 403.200€

Competence Area II Social and Economic Behavior Grant 2017: 6.500€

to organize and conduct the lecture series “Microfoundations of Politics” at UoC

Mobility Grant 2017, University of Cologne Grant: 2.400€

International Activities in the Competence Areas of the University of Cologne Grant 2016: 19.610€

to fund the international workshop “New Approaches to the Political Economy of Social Policy” at UoC (May 23rd – 24th 2016)

Competence Area II Social and Economic Behavior Grant 2016: 3.000€

to organize and conduct the lecture series “Microfoundations of Politics” at UoC

FELLOWSHIPS

R. Taylor Cole Scholarship, Duke University, 2009 – 2010.

International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE), Ph.D. Stipend 2010 – 2013.

DAAD Travel Grant for EPSA, Vienna, Austria, 2015

DAAD Travel Grant for LASA, Lima, Peru, 2017

DAAD Travel Grant for EPSA, Vienna, Austria, 2018

REVIEWER FOR

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, World Development, International Studies Quarterly, Socio-Economic Review, Comparative Political Studies, Latin American Politics & Society, Political Studies, European Journal of Political Economy, Regulation & Governance, Journal of International Relations and Development, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Social Policy & Administration, Applied Economics, Review of International Political Economy, Perspectives on Politics, Government & Opposition, Policy Studies, European Political Science Review, Global Social Policy, Health Economics, Politics & Gender

SCIENTIFIC SOFTWARE

L ^A T _E X	experienced user
STATA	experienced user
R	intermediate user
SPSS	intermediate user
Qualtrics	experienced user
LimeSurvey	experienced user
Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk)	experienced user

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German	native
English	fluent
French	fluent
Spanish	intermediate

PERSONAL

One daughter, born May 2021

Last updated: May 30th 2022