

# Health Economics and Policy

## Annual Report 2023



# Health Economics and Policy (HEP) Division

## 2023 Annual Activity Report

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# 1 HIGHLIGHTS

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- The HEP team published several articles in **international academic journals**, of which these two outstanding publications are particularly noteworthy: "Financial incentives and antibiotic prescribing patterns: Evidence from dispensing physicians in a public healthcare system" by Stacherl Barbara, Renner Anna T. and **Weber Daniela** in **Social Science & Medicine** as well as "Effects of organized screening programs on breast cancer screening, incidence, and mortality in Europe" by **Guthmuller Sophie**, Carrieri Vincenzo and Wübker, Ansgar in the **Journal of Health Economics**.
- In collaboration with the WU Institute for Social Policy, the HEP team continues teaching and managing the **5-course WU Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy**. This specialization meets a strong demand and runs at its full capacity of 30 new Bachelor's students per semester.
- The HEP team continues organizing the **2024 European Health Economics Association (EUHEA) Conference** this year, in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and Gesundheit Österreich GmbH.

## 2 THE HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY DIVISION

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### 2.1 THE TEAM

#### **Marcel Bilger, Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Head of Division**

Marcel Bilger holds a Ph.D. in Economics and Social Sciences with a specialization in Econometrics and Statistics from the University of Geneva. During his doctoral studies, he completed the International Doctoral Program in Health Economics and Policy from the Swiss School of Public Health+. After his Ph.D., Marcel worked as a Consultant for the Development Research Group at the World Bank, and as a Post-doctoral Research Scholar at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. As a tenure-track Assistant Professor, he then led the Laboratory of Health Econometrics in the Signature Program for Health Services and Systems Research at Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore while being Assistant Director for Education in the Program. Marcel has joined the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2018 as the new Head of the Health Economics and Policy Group.



During his career, Marcel has published in leading journals in health economics, health services research, and medicine as well as a book on health equity and financial protection. He is deeply passionate about the equity and sustainability of health systems. His work also includes the study of modifiable health risk factors such as obesity, lack of physical activity, and non-adherence to medications. In his new position, he now aims at offering innovative courses in health economics and policy in close partnership with the healthcare industry. His research objectives include developing a new framework that will consider both efficiency and equity considerations in efforts to guide health policymaking in Austria and internationally. His ultimate goal is to contribute to health equity and to the strengthening of health systems, while simultaneously training the next generation of leaders.



#### **Hannah Lou Harrison, Research Assistant**

Hannah Lou has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and is currently finishing her Master in the same subject. She arrived at HEP in October 2021 and worked as an administrative assistant until the end of 2022. During this time, she ensured that administrative processes ran smoothly and were streamlined. Furthermore, Hannah Lou helped with the realization of the organization of conferences with up to 1000 participants and completed important missions for several of HEP's research projects. Due to her scientific background, she was able to familiarise herself quickly and systematically with the tasks and gained detailed insights into the research field of health economics and policy. In 2023, she transitioned to the position of Research Assistant in the HEP research project PRÖMS.

### **Sophie Guthmuller, Assistant Professor**

Sophie Guthmuller holds a Ph.D. in Economics with a specialization in Health Economics from Paris Dauphine University. During her doctoral studies, she completed the International Doctoral Program in Health Economics and Policy from the Swiss School of Public Health+. After her Ph.D. and thanks to this expertise, Sophie has worked on several health econometrics projects and various economic evaluation projects within multi-disciplinary and international research teams. First as Postdoctoral Fellow at the Bordeaux School of Public Health (ISPED) in France, then as Research Fellow in the Academic Unit of Health Economics of the University of Leeds in the UK. Finally, as Economic Analyst at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, she has particularly applied her expertise in public policy evaluation methods at the European level. Sophie has joined the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2020 as tenure track Assistant Professor in the Health Economics and Policy Group. Since October 2020, she is also part of the RWI Research Network <https://www.rwi-essen.de/en/forschung-beratung/weitere/rwi-research-network/team>. Her research has led to papers published in French and international peer-reviewed journals, and was granted two PhD prizes. Her research interests include health economics, public policy evaluation and applied econometrics.



### **Daniela Weber, Research Assistant Professor**

Daniela Weber completed a master in technical mathematics from the Vienna University of Technology, a master in Statistics from the University of Vienna and a doctorate with distinction in Social and Economic Sciences from the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Next to her assistant professorship within the HEP division, she is also a research scholar within the Population and Just Societies Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg. Her research focuses on the demographic and economic perspectives in research on aging and health. She published her research findings in several high level journals such as PNAS, Scientific Reports or PlosOne. "Aging Health Capital" is her ongoing project funded by OEAW with the prestigious APART GSK grant.

### **Viktoria Szenkurök, PhD student**

Viktoria Szenkurök joined the Department of Health Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in November 2020 as a Teaching and Research Associate. Her dissertation project deals with inequalities in the use and provision of informal and formal long-term care. Viktoria received her Master's degree (MSc) in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2020. In her Master thesis she analysed the linkage between demographic trends, poverty and income inequality. As Teaching and Research Associate her scientific research focus lies on the economics of health, ageing and distribution. In her first research project, she is working with both macro- and micro-level data to investigate socio-economic and societal differences in the use of home care services by older adults in Europe. Viktoria's second project extends previous knowledge by examining the causal effects of receiving cash benefits on the use of (informal) care. Finally, her third research project emphasizes the caregivers' perspective, focusing on wage differentials.



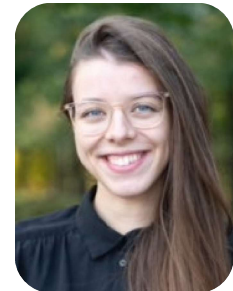


**Maddalena Josefin Lamura, Research Assistant**

Since November 2021, Maddalena J. Lamura is a Research Assistant at the Department of Health Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. She collaborates in a mixed methods study, researching the spread of precarious working conditions in online platform work and how these impact workers' health. Maddalena attained her Master degree (MSc) in Socio-ecological Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2021. During the Master, she specialized in Ecological economics, Social policy and Advanced qualitative and quantitative methods. Her research interests lie in the potential for the digitalisation of work to support the socio-ecological transformation, encompassing both micro (working conditions) and macro (eco-social policies) perspectives.

**Susanne Drexler, Doctoral Student**

Susanne Drexler joined the Department of Health Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in July 2022 as a doctoral researcher. She works on PRÖMS, a third-party financed project in collaboration with the Austrian Social Health insurance (ÖGK) aimed at the development of an instrument for the routine collection of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in primary care. Susanne completed an Erasmus Mundus Master in Health Economics and Management (MSc) with a specialisation in Global Health at the University of Oslo, the Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the University in Bologna in December 2021 and holds a Bachelor's degree in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Vienna. Before joining the HEP division, Susanne worked as a research assistant at the Norwegian Institute for Public Health (FHI) and the Institute of Advanced Studies (IHS) where she has contributed to several reports and publications. Her research interests include health policy evaluation, health equity, and health system sustainability.



**Dominik Klaus, PhD student**

Dominik Klaus has received a Master's degree in Socioeconomics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business and is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Vienna. He has visited the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt for a research stay and he is engaged in the Austrian Association for Sociology as a council member of the section Sociology of Work. Before joining the HEP team, he received an ÖAW scholarship and a research position at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Vienna. His dissertation project deals with recognition and blurring boundaries in digital remote work. Other research interests include new forms of employment, digital service work and decent sustainable work. Next to his research, Dominik teaches courses on the topics of Socioeconomic Theories, Sustainability, Sociology of Work, Social Policy and Literature Research.

**Thomas Arnhold, PhD Student**

Thomas Arnhold is a Guest Researcher and PhD Candidate at the Health Economics and Policy Division. Since 2023, he has been working as a Researcher in the Social Cohesion, Health, and Wellbeing Research Group of the Population and Just Societies Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). He holds a Master's degree in Economics from WU. As part of the project Cognitive health in aging society – The role of context for cognitive functioning and related policy implications in Europe (CHIAS), his research focuses on context- and time-related inequalities in cognitive aging.

**Sabina Kantorova, Tutor**

Sabina joined the team as a tutor and assistant in August 2022. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business, Economics and Social Sciences with a focus on Socioeconomics from WU Vienna and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Socioeconomics at WU. She supports the team in organizational, research and teaching tasks. Furthermore, she is currently assisting in the research project focusing on the health and working conditions of platform workers. Sabina is currently starting to work on her master's thesis under supervision of Sophie Guthmuller. The thesis will focus on socioeconomic differences and their effects on the uptake and success rates of breast cancer and colorectal cancer screenings in Austria. Her research interests lie in behavioral economics and its implementation to existing policies.

**Susann Buchstab, Administrative Assistant**

Susann Buchstab holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Administration from Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Socioeconomics at WU Vienna. She arrived at HEP in November 2023 and is currently supporting the Division as administrative assistant.



For more information and for the long-version CVs of all the members, please visit the HEP website:

<https://www.wu.ac.at/sozialpolitik/>

## 2.2 CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

### **Administrative Assistant**

Susann Buchstab joined the Division in November 2023 to replace Maddalena Lamura.

### **New Research Assistant**

Hannah Lou Harrison transitioned from administrative assistant to the position of research assistant in the HEP research project PRÖMS.

### **New PhD Students**

Thomas Arnhold started as PhD Student and Guest Researcher at the HEP Division in 2023.

## 3 RESEARCH

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The overarching objective of HEP's research effort is to generate new empirical results, methods, and theoretical frameworks that inform health policy making.

### 3.1 PUBLICATIONS

Carrieri Vincenzo, **Guthmuller Sophie**, Wübker Ansgar. 2023. Trust and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. Scientific Reports. 13 (9245). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-35974-z>.

**Guthmuller Sophie**, Carrieri Vincenzo, Wübker, Ansgar. 2023. Effects of organized screening programs on breast cancer screening, incidence, and mortality in Europe. Journal of Health Economics. 92 (102803). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2023.102803>.

**Klaus Dominik**, Haas Barbara, **Lamura Maddalena**. 2023. Dependency and Social Recognition of Online Platform Workers: Evidence From a Mixed-Methods Study. Social Inclusion. 11 (4), 251-261. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v11i4.7186>.

Duminy James, Ezech Alex, Galea Sandro, Harpham Trudy, Montgomery Mark R., Salas J.M. Ian, **Weber Daniela**, Weimann Amy, You Danzhen. 2023. Demographic change and urban health: Towards a novel agenda for delivering sustainable and healthy cities for all. F1000Research. 12 (1017). <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.139309.1>.

Stacherl Barbara, Renner Anna T., **Weber Daniela**. 2023. Financial incentives and antibiotic prescribing patterns: Evidence from dispensing physicians in a public healthcare system. Social Science & Medicine. 321 (115791), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.115791>.

### 3.2 ACTIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

**Guthmuller S. (PI)**, Heger D., Wübker A. Project 1 "Loneliness amongst older adults". Research Area C) of the Leibniz Science Campus Ruhr "Regional Variation in Health Care" (1.2 Mio. € for 4 years).

#### Loneliness among the European ageing population

The objective of this research project is to study loneliness among ageing populations. More specifically, the aims include: (1) analysing the correlation between the rates of loneliness and living in a region with declining and ageing populations, (2) studying the impact of retirement on loneliness, (3) investigating the link between loneliness and health and health care use in ageing populations. To identify the causal impact of loneliness, advanced counterfactual impact evaluation methods will be used. More detailed information on this project is available here: <https://www.rwi-essen.de/lscr>.

## Aging Health Capital

This project aims at investigating the development of old-age health capital from an international perspective. It will identify life course factors associated with cognitive and physical performance and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases of the 50+ population in Europe, the United States, and Asia using several comparable national panel surveys on health and aging. The factors are characteristics on the individual, regional/neighbourhood, and country level and are collected at different points during the life course. Results gained by this research project will be very important for policy makers as societies across the world face an aging population. Therefore, maintaining active older adults with high cognitive and physical capacities and intervene at proper time will be an important objective.

**Weber D. (PI).** Aging Health Capital: Evolution of physical and cognitive health over the life course from an international perspective. APART-GSK-Stipend by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (392,000€ for 4 years).

**Weber D. (Co-PI),** Zniva R. (Co-PI). REdesigning HeAlth ProduCTs 2.0. WISS-2025 by the Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung (120,000€ for 18 months, extended).

## REdesigning HeAlth ProduCTs 2.0

The objective of this project is to focus on the users' perspective when developing care products. The targeted region for this interdisciplinary project is Salzburg, where collaborations with partners from demand and supply side are confirmed. Two products used a lot in daily life by people in need of care are now under redesign to enable better usage and more support in daily routines.

## Working conditions and health of crowdworkers

The increasing use of cloud computing facilitates the digitalisation of work and its platform-based outsourcing to an undefined amount of external workers. The effects on working conditions and the health of workers play an important role, but remain largely unexplored. The aim of the project is to empirically analyse precarious and health-endangering tendencies of virtual crowdworking, where work is done or uploaded directly in the interface of the platforms. Low-skilled work (microtasks) will be treated in the quantitative-qualitative mixed methods approach as well as demanding knowledge work (macrotasks).

**Bilger M. (Co-PI),** Haas B. (Co-PI), Lamura M. J. Precarious working conditions and health of crowdworkers? A mixed methods analysis of an online survey and qualitative interviews. Digitalisierungsfonds Arbeit 4.0 by AK Wien (172,223€ for 2.5 years).

**Bilger M. (Co-PI)**, Kiss, N. (Co-PI). PROMS-/PREMS- Instrument. Funded by Austrian Social Health insurance (ÖGK) (236,423€ for 3 years).

### PRÖMS: PREMs and PROMs in outpatient care

This is a third-party financed project in collaboration with the Austrian Social Health Insurance (ÖGK) aimed at the development of a survey for the routine collection of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in Austrian outpatient care. Currently, the patient perspective is not included in care planning in Austria and existing PREM and PROM instruments do not address the patient-system relationship. The final survey will be implemented digitally and create a continuous feedback loop from patients to ÖGK supporting the ultimate aim of improving Austrian outpatient care. Other results of this project, such as use of PREMs and PROMs in primary care, will be relevant for payers, policy makers, and decision makers in other jurisdictions.

### Revealed and Stated Preferences for Health Data Sharing in Austria

This mixed-methods research project explores how the purpose of data collection influences the willingness to share patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in Austria. While administrative health data is collected automatically when the social health insurance card (eCard) is used, the successful routine collection of PROMs and PREMs is dependent on voluntary participation. However, previous research has shown that the Austrian population is more reluctant to share their health data compared to other European countries (Patil et al. 2016), but reasons for this are currently understudied (Kalkman et al. 2022; Robling et al. 2004). This study thus investigates preferences regarding the sharing of PROMs and PREMs in Austria.

**Drexler S. (PI)**. Revealed and Stated Preferences for Health Data Sharing in Austria: A mixed-methods analysis. "Kleinprojekte für WU Assistentinnen" from WU (7,821€ for 1 year).

**Szenkurök V. (PI)**, Rodrigues, R. International Research Fellowship at the Lisbon School of Economics and Management (ISEG) in Portugal, May-June 2023. Funded by the WU (2,400€ for 1 month).

### Examining pay gaps in the female-dominated (long-term) care sector: Evidence from Portugal

This project aims to uncover potential drivers of wage differentials in the long-term care (LTC) sector and compare them to other female-dominated 'caring' sectors such as childcare, health care, and social work in Portugal. By employing a multilevel framework, wage gaps and potential factors influencing these gaps have been examined.

### HPV vaccine and its contributions to cervical cancer prevention in the Netherlands

**Guthmuller, S. (PI),**  
O'Donnell O., Wouterse, B.  
WU Project 2023 incl.  
Research stay at Erasmus  
University Rotterdam  
(17,000€ for 1 year)

This research project aims at studying and quantifying the causal effects of two public health programs implemented in the Netherlands to eliminate cervical cancer: a free access to human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for children and young adults, and regular screening invitations for adults within an organized screening program (OSP). Socioeconomic inequalities in screening and vaccination participation will be studied, as well as the interactions between mother and daughter decisions on cervical cancer prevention. The results of this research will provide robust evidence on the causal effects of these programs and help policy makers in the Netherlands, and in other countries with similar programs, to make informed choices on these two programs. More broadly, they will contribute to the knowledge on cancer prevention measures and vaccine hesitancy.

**Daniela Weber (Co-PI),**  
Bordone, V. (PI). Cognitive  
Health in Aging Society.  
Funded by the Wiener  
Wissenschafts- und  
Technologiefonds (WWTF)  
Vienna (529,920€ for 4  
years)

### Cognitive Health in Aging Society

Europe is a leader in population aging, but living longer does not imply aging well for all. As a key source of inequality, the retirement-health nexus has gained importance for both research and health policy planning. Therefore, the goal of this interdisciplinary project is providing a clear understanding of healthy cognitive aging. Conceptually, the focus is on the link between labor market participation and healthy cognitive aging. Analytically, inequalities across time and space will be investigated, where gender and education are central individual dimensions.

## 3.3 OTHER ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

### Are women left behind? Exploring associations between gender, social deprivation, and unmet care needs

In this study, we aim to contribute to the inconclusive literature on gender-related differences in unmet care need by unveiling the intricate relationship between gender, social deprivation, and unmet care needs among older adults in Europe. Using a logit model based on data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), our results hold substantial policy relevance as they show that social deprivation - captured by a uniquely comprehensive index including 12 items on lack of (digital) literacy, neighborhood deprivation, exclusion from social relations and basic access to health care services - significantly amplifies the risk of older women experiencing unmet personal care needs.

**HEP researchers involved:** Viktoria Szenkurök, Daniela Weber

### Budget impact analysis of colorectal screening programs in Austria

This project aims at calculating the budget impact of various organized colorectal screening programs in Austria. The method is based on a Markov model partly informed by survey data from the Austrian National Health Examination Survey (ATHIS).

**HEP researchers involved:** Marcel Bilger and Sophie Guthmuller

**In collaboration with:** Österreichische Gesundheitskasse (ÖGK)

## Cancer screening, diagnosis, and mortality in Europe

Cancer is a major social issue in Western societies because of its high incidence and high mortality risk that particularly affects aging societies. The good side of the coin is that cancer is in many cases avoidable, and early detection is key to increase the chance of cure. For that reason, many countries in Europe introduced organised screening programmes (OSP) for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer. However, there are large regional differences across Europe as to whether and when OSPs were introduced. We exploit these variations in this project to comprehensively evaluate OSP. The first OSPs in Europe date back to the 1980s and most of them are still active nowadays. However, after almost 40 years of implementation, a comprehensive evaluation of this policy is still missing. For instance, do OSPs have an impact on screening uptake? Do they reach the population at higher risk? Do OSPs help increasing early diagnoses and reducing mortality? Do OSPs impact inequality in healthcare use and health? This project aim is to fill this gap.

**HEP researchers involved:** *Sophie Guthmuller*

**In collaboration with:** *Vincenzo Carrieri (Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro) and Ansgar Wübker (RWI Essen, Hochschule Harz)*

## Cognitive health in aging society - The role of context for cognitive functioning and related policy implications in Europe

The interdisciplinary project aims at providing a clear understanding of healthy cognitive aging. Conceptually, the focus is on the link between labour market participation and healthy cognitive aging. Analytically, inequalities across time and space are investigated, where gender and education are central individual dimensions. For this, we employ quantitative methods on high-quality survey data (SHARE).

**HEP researchers involved:** *Daniela Weber*

**In collaboration with:** *Valeria Bordone (University of Vienna)*

## Effectiveness of organized programs on colorectal screening uptake in Austria

This project aims at assessing the impact of organized colorectal screening programs on uptake in Austria. The methods used are interrupted times series, difference-in-difference, and regression discontinuity design that are applied to a large dataset of individual insurance claim data.

**HEP researchers involved:** *Marcel Bilger and Sophie Guthmuller*

**In collaboration with:** *Österreichische Gesundheitskasse (ÖGK)*

## Encouragement or crowding out of the family? The effect of cash-for-care on informal care use

Using panel data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), this project aims to determine the effect of taking-up cash-for-care benefits on informal care and to uncover country-specific heterogeneities across conservative welfare states with a traditionally familialistic approach to elderly care.

**HEP researchers involved:** *Viktoria Szenkurök*

## Informal and Formal Long-Term Care Utilization and Unmet Needs in Europe: Examining Socioeconomic Inequalities and the Role of Institutional Arrangements

As the number of people with physical disabilities and limitations in daily activities increases, long-term care systems in Europe are under increasing pressure to meet these additional needs. The overarching goal of this research project is therefore to deepen our understanding of a socioeconomic gradient in older adult's use of home care services and determine whether it differs across countries with varying institutional, labour market and care supply characteristics. Methodologically we are using a two-part multilevel decomposition technique based on individual-level data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and a wide range of macro-level indicators drawn from various sources such as the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection database). The results of this study are particularly relevant for policymakers aiming to fill emerging gaps in current long-term care systems.

**HEP researchers involved:** Marcel Bilger, Viktoria Szenkurök, Daniela Weber

## The Effect of a Social Education Grant on Academic Success: Evidence from Portugal

This project studies the impact of the higher education grant system for less privileged students in Portugal on academic success. Thanks to administrative data on the applicants, linked with data on students' academic situation, we are able to reconstruct the full academic history of these students. Eligibility to the higher education grant is conditioned on having resources below a threshold. We adopt a regression discontinuity approach based on this exogenous assignment rule to measure the impact of the grant on various outcomes measuring academic success.

**HEP researchers involved:** Sophie Guthmuller

**In collaboration with:** Elena Meroni (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)

## The Role of Education and Age Cohort in Shaping Attitudes toward Immigration in Europe

This project complements the existing literature on determinants of attitudes to foreign populations by explicitly addressing the role of education, using repeated cross-sectional data combined with contextual information on yearly migrant inflow rates to European countries.

**HEP researchers involved:** Daniela Weber

**In collaboration with:** Karen Umansky (University Potsdam, Germany)

### 3.4 SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH VISITS

**Bilger, Marcel** and Kiss Noemi. Digitale Daten von Patient\*innen in der Primärversorgung. 8. Österreichischer Primärversorgungskongress, Graz, Austria, 2023.

**Drexler, Susanne.** Multimethod study on patient-reported measures for routine assessment of primary care. 16<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 2023.

**Guthmuller, Sophie.** The causal effect of Organised Screening Programmes in Europe on screening uptake: Evidence for colorectal cancer. 15. DGGÖ-Jahrestagung, Hannover, Germany, 2023.

**Guthmuller, Sophie.** Discussion of paper by Johanna Kutz: Effect of Temperature and Weather Shocks on Health at Birth: Evidence from the US. 9<sup>th</sup> Workshop of the DGGÖ Committee Gesundheitsökonomie, Linz, Austria, 2023.

**Klaus, Dominik.** Keine Klimapolitik ohne Geschlechtergleichheit. Defizite ökologisch verträglicher Arbeits- und Lebensformen am Beispiel der Online-Plattformarbeit. ÖGS Congress 2023, Vienna, Austria, 2023.

**Szenkurök, Viktoria.** Encouragement or crowding-out of the family? The effect of cash-for-care on informal care use. 7<sup>th</sup> ATHEA Conference, Vienna, Austria, 2023.

**Szenkurök, Viktoria.** Are women left behind? Exploring associations between gender, social deprivation, and unmet care need. 8<sup>th</sup> International Workshop of the Socioeconomics of Ageing (IWSEA), Lisbon, Portugal, 2023.

**Weber, Daniela.** Healthy Ageing and Prevention in Europe: How do European countries compare? Webinar by ILC Europe Network, 2023.

**Weber, Daniela.** Delegate at the Global launch of the Healthy Ageing and Prevention Index. 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly by WHO, Geneva, Italy, 2023.

### 3.5 PEER-REVIEWS FOR ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- Age and Ageing
- Frontiers in Public Health
- Journal of Aging and Health
- Journal of Health Economics
- Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Swiss National Science Foundation (Grant Proposal)

### 3.6 GUEST RESEARCHERS AT HEP

**Prof. Agneta Herlitz**, from Karolinska Institutet Stockholm, December 2023.

**Arda Aktas**, PhD from International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, August 2023.

## 4 TEACHING

HEP's teaching philosophy consists in developing the understanding of key health economic concepts, fostering the ability to apply health economic theory to real life situations, and creating skills that are directly relevant to the industry.

### 4.1 COURSES

The HEP team teaches approximately 16 hours per week on average at all academic levels. At the Bachelor's level, HEP, in collaboration with the Institute for Social Policy, offers a 5-course Specialization that is open to students enrolled in three different programs: Business and Economics, Business Law, and Business, Economics, and Social Sciences. This Specialization in Health and Social Policy enables the Division to teach health economics and policy within a broader interdisciplinary perspective and to reach a larger number of students. This specialization is currently running at its full capacity of 30 new Bachelor's students per semester.

The table below summarizes HEP's teaching portfolio. More detail on each course offered can be found in the WU course catalogue (<https://learn.wu.ac.at/vvz/>).

| Course                                                                                                                    | Program                                                            | HEP Lecturer(s)                       | Semester              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Economics and Policy of the Public Healthcare Industry</b>                                                             | Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy (Course II)  | Marcel Bilger, Viktoria Szenkurök     | SS 2023<br>WS 2023/24 |
| <b>Economics and Policy of the Private Healthcare Industry</b>                                                            | Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy (Course III) | Marcel Bilger<br>Viktoria Szenkurök   | SS 2023<br>WS 2023/24 |
| <b>Social Policy Evaluation<sup>a</sup></b>                                                                               | Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy (Course V)   | Sophie Guthmuller<br>Ulrike Schneider | SS 2023<br>WS 2023/24 |
| <b>Field Course: Economic and Social Policy</b>                                                                           | Master's in Economics                                              | Sophie Guthmuller                     | SS 2023<br>WS 2023/24 |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Socio-Economic Research Lab I: Quantitative Methods for evaluation of Social and Health Policies</b> | Master's in Socioeconomics                                         | Marcel Bilger<br>Ulrike Schneider     | WS 2023/24            |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Socio-Economic Research Lab II: Quantitative Methods for evaluation of Health and Health Policy</b>  | Master's in Socioeconomics                                         | Marcel Bilger,<br>Ulrike Schneider    | SS 2023               |
| <b>Applied Socio-Economic Theories and Methods</b>                                                                        | Master's in Socioeconomics                                         | Marcel Bilger                         | SS 2023<br>WS 2023/24 |
| <b>Mikroökonomie Teil 1: Gesundheitsökonomie</b>                                                                          | MBA in Health Care Management                                      | Marcel Bilger                         | SS 2023               |

<sup>a</sup> Taught in collaboration with the Institute for Social Policy.

<sup>b</sup> External lecturers.

## 4.2 EXAMINATIONS, AND THESIS SUPERVISIONS

### Ph.D. and Doctoral theses supervised

- Arnhold, Thomas. Cognitive health, Work and Retirement in an Aging Society. WU Ph.D. Program in Economics and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Drexler, Susanne. Socioeconomic and policy evaluation of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in Austrian outpatient care, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Föbtleitner, Sophie. Inequalities within the Austrian Health Care System, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Gösenbauer, Barbara. Socioeconomic Analysis of Quality and Cost of Outpatient and Hospitalized Long-Term Care in Austria, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Oberndorfer, Moritz. Unequally unequal? Social cohesion and health in times of rising income inequality, Doctoral Program at the Medical University of Vienna (completed).
- Paterno, Nathanael. Economics and Financing of Gene therapies, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Schneider, Peter. Pharmaceutical Policy for High-priced and innovative medicines, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Szenkurök, Viktoria. Socioeconomic Inequalities in Long-Term Care. WU Ph.D. Program in Economics and Social Sciences (ongoing).

### Master's theses supervised

- Arnhold, Thomas. Ungleichheit von kognitiver und körperlicher Funktionsfähigkeit im Alter: Der Einfluss von Bildungsungleichheit und sozialen Determinanten der Gesundheit, Master's Thesis in Economics (completed).
- Assmann, Thomas. Evaluating the effects of the Breast Cancer Screening Program in Austria, Master's Thesis in Economics (ongoing).
- Cassara', Federico Salvatore. Geographical inequalities in access to abortion services in the United Kingdom, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Eckhard, Lorenz. Access to abortion in the US, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Fischeneder, Andreas. The Impact of Different Colorectal Cancer Screening Programs on Take-Up in Austria, Master's Thesis in Economics (ongoing).
- Haintz, Gabriel Alexander. Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy and Social Class, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Kantorova, Sabina. Colorectal cancer screening in Austria: Socioeconomic gradient in uptake and Budget Impact. Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Kettl, Julian. Sleep as a question of health inequality amongst cloud workers, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Klemm, Paulina Antonia. Understanding the Dynamics of Influenza Vaccination in European Countries, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).

- Koisser, Lea. Organized colorectal cancer screening in Austria: a need-gap analysis, Master's Thesis in Economics (ongoing).
- Rösler, David. Suicide numbers during the COVID-19 pandemic: An interrupted time series analysis in Austria, Master's Thesis in Economics (ongoing).
- Savasci, Adriana. Breast Cancer Screening - A Qualitative Study of (Non)-Take-Up in Vienna, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Wich, Tabea Emilia. Der Zusammenhang zwischen relativem Einkommen und mentaler Gesundheit bei Individuen mit unterschiedlichen Werteprioritäten, Master's Thesis in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy (completed).

#### **Bachelor's theses supervised**

- Adamek, Katharina, Wirkung pflegerischer und rettungsdienstlicher Versorgungsmodelle auf die Gesundheitsversorgung, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Balitchi, Andreea-Diana, Ein Rückblick auf die Rentenreformen in Großbritannien und Frankreich. Die Kosten des Älterwerdens, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Balle, Joshua Niklas, Der Effekt der Privatversicherung auf den Zugang zum Gesundheitssystem in Österreich, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Bilogrevic, Tea, Der Einfluss von sozialen Medien auf das psychische Wohlbefinden, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Cunaku, Sara, Bestimmungsfaktoren des Medizintourismus - Forschung anhand von halbstrukturierten qualitativen Interviews im Kosovo, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Dinohbl, Anna Katharina Maria, a Evaluierung des österreichischen Vorsorgeuntersuchungsprogramms - eine Betrachtung in der Lebensverlaufsperspektive, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Erber, Felix, Was sind die Hauptrisikofaktoren der Einsamkeit bei verschiedenen Altersgruppen in Europa?, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Fabrick, Alexander, Einsamkeit von Universitätsstudenten in Europa: Erfahrungen vor und während Covid-19, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Giannopoulos, Giorgio Romeo, Trägt Medical Gatekeeping zu einer Reduzierung der Gesundheitsausgaben bei?, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Gu, Aidao, A Comparison of China's zero covid policy with health policies implemented in Singapore and Sweden, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Gugele, Svenja Tabea, COVID-19 and access to abortion, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Helfrich, Anna Philippa Charlotte, Integration neu definieren: Die Rolle der psychischen Gesundheit von Flüchtlingen bei der Gestaltung der deutschen Integrationspolitik, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Höhne, Tessa, Digitalisierter Impfpass um die Impfquote in Österreich zu stärken, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Hössinger, Hannah, Faktoren, die die HPV Impfbereitschaft von Eltern und Jugendlichen beeinflussen, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Ilic, Antonia, Demenz und ihre Herausforderungen für den österreichischen Wohlfahrtsstaat vor dem Hintergrund einer alternden Bevölkerung, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).

- Kanovsky, Valerie Katharina, Wahlarzt vs. Kassenarzt - Die Beweggründe der Wahl der Berufsspartenentscheidung von Wahlärzten in Österreich, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Kolenda, Claudio, Arbeitslosigkeit, ökonomische Ungleichheit und Armut in Österreich während der COVID-19 Pandemie, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Kuzma-Kuzniarski, Astrid, Bestimmungsfaktoren der körperlichen Gesundheit, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Mattu, Gurmeet Kaur, Die Auswirkungen von Luftverschmutzung auf nicht-übertragbare Krankheiten für Personen ab 65 Jahren in städtischen Gebieten, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Modritz, Nina Marie, Auswirkungen von Kultur auf Soziales und Gesundheit, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Müller, Maximilian, Die Kosten der Alzheimer-Krankheit, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Oberschulte, Yannic-David, Internationale politische Interventionen zur Reduktion des Tabakkonsums - Interventionen in Österreich einem Land der Raucher im Vergleich, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Pavonic, Anastasia Iris, Evaluierung der Nützlichkeit von Mobile Apps zur Prävention und Behandlung von psychischen Erkrankungen bei Jugendlichen und jungen Erwachsenen, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Reiter, Jasmin, Angebot und Nachfrage von einer privaten Krankenversicherung für Arbeitnehmer. Eine komparative und qualitative Untersuchung zwischen Österreich und England, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Repper, Ferdinand, Untersuchung Österreichs Geschichte um dessen hohe Raucherzahlen zu erklären, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Schiller, Isabella, Reproduktive Freiheit: Ein umfassender Überblick über den Zugang zu medizinisch unterstützter Reproduktionstechnologie in Europa, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Vaszi, Julian, Die Auswirkungen des Arbeitsplatzes auf die physische Gesundheit in Bürojobs, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Wang Xu, Victor, Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of probiotics for weight loss, Bachelor's thesis in International Business (ongoing).
- Wimmer-Etz, Klara, Luftverschmutzung als unterschätzte Gefahr für die kognitive Gesundheit - Eine internationale Literaturstudie, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Wohlkönig, Sebastian, The emergence of Fentanyl use in the US and Europe: An analysis of the determinants of Fentanyl use in the US and Europe, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics and Social Sciences (ongoing).

## 5 OUTREACH

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The goals of HEP's outreach activities is to network with the healthcare industry and academic researchers, and communicate research results and engage with the public.

**In 2023, the HEP team conducted the following outreach activities:**

### **ASEP Health**

Marcel Bilger is member of the health working group for the new Austrian Socio-Economic Panel (ASEP).

Marcel Bilger was President of the Austrian Health Economics Association (ATHEA) from January 2020 until December 2023 (<http://www.athea.at/en/about/>).

### **ATHEA**

### **EuHEA**

The HEP team is organizing the 2024 European Health Economics Association (EUHEA) Conference, in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (<http://www.euhea.eu/>).

Daniela Weber is an editorial board member of Frontiers in Public Health in the section Aging and Public Health since 2023.

### **Frontiers in Public Health**

### **Register Forschung.at**

Sophie Guthmuller is a Member of the Platform „RegisterForschung.at“ to promote access to administrative data to researchers and the creation of the Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC).

Daniela Weber is a Member of the “WHO Consortium on Metrics and Evidence for Healthy Ageing”, which aims at reviewing and suggesting metrics for healthy ageing within the framework of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030.

### **WHO**

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