Benjamin Ferschli.

Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics, University of Leeds. Research on work, automation and the political economy of production.

CONTACT
b.ferschli@leeds.ac.uk
benjamin.ferschli@gmail.com
benjaminferschli.com ↗ Google Scholar ↗

Education 01

2019 – 2025	**DPhil Sociology** · University of Oxford
2017 – 2019	**MSc Economics** · University of Business and Economics Vienna · Degree unfinished
2015 – 2016	**MPhil Sociology** · University of Cambridge · Distinction
2012 – 2015	**BSc Economics** · University of Business and Economics Vienna · Top 3%
2010 – 2013	**BA Philosophy** · University of Vienna · Distinction

Positions 02

09/2026 –	**Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics** · University of Leeds
10/2022 – 10/2025	**Lecturer in Economics** · University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna
03/2024 – 06/2024	**Visiting Fellow** · Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa, Institute of Economics, and Sapienza Università di Roma, Institute of Economics · Supervisors: Maria Virgillito, Dario Guarascio
10/2023 – 12/2023	**Research Fellow** · WZB – Weizenbaum Institut Berlin, Research Group "Working with AI" · Supervisors: Florian Butollo, Martin Krzywdzinski
01/2022 – 05/2022	**Research Fellow, Marshall Plan Foundation** · UC Berkeley, Institute for European Studies · Supervisor: Christoph Hermann
10/2021 – 10/2024	**Research Fellow** · Austrian Academy of Sciences
03/2020 – 10/2023	**Visiting Fellow** · Institute for Sociology and Empirical Social Science, University of Business and Economics Vienna
12/2019 – 02/2020	**Visiting Fellow** · Institute for Institutional and Heterodox Economics, University of Business and Economics Vienna
10/2019 – 10/2024	**Clarendon Scholar** · University of Oxford
10/2018 – 08/2019	**Research Fellow, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research** · at the European Forum, Hebrew University Jerusalem
02/2017 – 02/2019	**Researcher** · Johannes Kepler University Linz, Institute for the Comprehensive Analysis of the Economy · Project on Wealth Distribution in Austria and the EU
10/2016 – 03/2017	**Researcher** · Karl Franzens University Graz, Institute for Applied Organisation Studies · Project on Economic Decision Making

Research Funding Acquisition

03

2023	**Research Fellowship WZB** · Berlin	€5,000
2023	**St Antony's College STAR Grant and Department of Sociology Graduate Research Fund**	£1,300
2019	**Research Fellowship Marshall Plan Foundation**	$6,500
2021	**DOC Scholarship** · Austrian Academy of Sciences	€132,600
2019	**Doctoral Scholarship Clarendon Fund** · University of Oxford (University Fees and Maintenance Grant)	£124,350
08/2019 – 08/2021	**Research Network "Political Economy of Media in Austria"** · Principal Investigator with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine, funded by the Vienna Chamber of Labour	€10,000
09/2018 – 04/2019	**Study on the Political Economy of German Media** · Principal Investigator with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine, funded by the ISW München	€1,500
2018	**Research Fellowship** · Austrian Ministry of Science and Education	€18,000
2016	**Support for Thesis Research** · Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, UK	£300
2015	**Maria Szécsi Scholarship** · Awarded by the Austrian Chamber of Labor for studies at the University of Cambridge, UK	€6,000
2013	**University of Washington Dean's List member** · For "outstanding academic performance"	—
12/2012 – 07/2013	**Scholarship for an academic exchange** · University of Washington, Seattle, USA, December 2012 – July 2013	€1,800
2013, 2014	**Academic Eligibility met, scholarship for Academic Excellence (Economics)** · University of Business and Economics Vienna	€800
2011, 2012	**Scholarship for Academic Excellence (Philosophy)** · University of Vienna	€800

Publications

04

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

05

2025	**Spurring Monopolies and Fettering Automation? Determinants of Variations of Productivity, Output and Employment in the Automotive Sectors of OECD Countries since the Financial Crisis** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Zilian, S. — *International Journal of Automotive Technology and Management*
2025	**An Escalating Crisis? Polit-Economic Perspectives on the "Fourth Estate" in Austria** Theine, H.; Grabner, D.; Ferschli, B.; Friedrich, J. — *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft* (German)
2021	**Digitalization, Market Concentration, and Productivity in Germany** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Journal of Economics and Statistics*
2017a	**Capitalism without Bosses: The Nature of the Firm and Labour-Process under Self-Management** Ferschli, B. — *Momentum Quarterly, 6(3), 153–209*
2017b	**Distribution and Stock of Private Wealth in Austria 2014/2015** Ferschli, B.; Schütz, B.; Kapeller, J.; Wildauer, R. — *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft, 43(4), 499–534* (German)

WORKING PAPERS

03

WP	**Manufacturing Technological Hegemony: Worker and Union Consent to Automation and Digitalisation in the European Automotive Industry** Ferschli, B.; Moro, A.; Carbonell, J. S.

WP **Competitiveness of and for Whom? The Role of Automation in the Turbulent Organization of Manufacturing Production Locations in the Austrian Automotive-Supplier Industry**
Ferschli, B.

WP **Entropic Product-Driven Technological Change: Technological Feasibility and Economic Necessity in Engineers' Perspectives on Firms' Automation Decisions in the Automotive Industry**
Ferschli, B.

BOOKS 02

— **The Partial Automation of the World**
Ferschli, B. Under review

2023 **Ambivalences of the Transformation of Social Policy and the Welfare State**
Atzmüller, R.; Decieux, F.; Ferschli, B. (eds.) — *Beltz Juventa* (German)

BOOK CHAPTERS 06

2026 **Automated Inefficiency: Contradictions of Technological and Economic Logics of Production in the Austrian Automotive Supplier Industry**
Ferschli, B. — *In: "Failure in the System. Failed Digitalisation in Work", edited by Nies, Sarah; Heiland, Heiner; Kern, Annemarie; Sommer, Matthias; Rieger, Samuel*

2024 **Capitalism without Workers: On the Impossibility of Automation and its Relation to the Question of Value**
Ferschli, B. — *In: Deautomating the Future: Marxist Perspectives on Capitalism and Technology. Historical Materialism Series, Brill*

2023 **Ambivalences and Contradictions of Social Policy in Societal Transformation Processes**
Atzmüller, R.; Decieux, F.; Ferschli, B. — *In: Ambivalences of the Transformation of Social Policy and the Welfare State. Beltz Juventa* (German)

2023 **From Digital to Post-Capitalism? Automation, Crises of Work and Social Policy Transformation**
Ferschli, B. — *In: Ambivalences of the Transformation of Social Policy and the Welfare State. Beltz Juventa* (German)

2019c **Financialisation and Global Inequality**
Kapeller, J.; Ferschli, B.; Schütz, B. — *In: Fischer, K.; Grandner, M. (eds.), Global Inequality. Mandelbaum Verlag* (German)

2018b **Hans Albert and the Critique of Model-Platonism in Economics**
Ferschli, B.; Kapeller, J. — *In: Franco, G. (ed.), Handbook Karl Popper. Springer VS, Wiesbaden* (German)

REPORTS AND NON-DOUBLE-BLIND JOURNAL ARTICLES 06

2024 **The Eternal End of Work: Automation, Value and the Fetishisation of Technology**
Ferschli, B. — *Kurswechsel* (German)

2019a **Market Power, Financialisation and Inequality. On the Effects of Digitalisation on the German Economy**
Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*

2019b **On the Political Economy of German Media Enterprises**
Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D.; Theine, H. — *isw-Report 118* (German)

2018a **Simulation of a Wealth Tax in Austria**
Ferschli, B.; Schütz, B.; Kapeller, J.; Wildauer, R. — *Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift, 1/2018* (German)

2017c **Stock and Concentration of Private Wealth in Austria**
Ferschli, B.; Schütz, B.; Kapeller, J.; Wildauer, R. — *Materialien zu Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft, Nr. 167*

2014a **Unhelpful Economics or the Virtue of Irresponsibility**
Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D. — *Standpunkte* (German: Unhilfreiche Ökonomik oder die Tugend der Verantwortungslosigkeit)

Media

05

2024	**The Future of Work in Austrian Manufacturing Remains Open** Ferschli, B. — *Kurier* KURIER.AT ↗
2024	**The Limits of a Universal Basic Income as Progressive Social Policy** Ferschli, B. — *Technology, Employment and Wellbeing Blog, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* FUTUREOFWORK.FES.DE ↗
2020	**What Can Politics Do Regarding Digitalisation to Counter Increasing Inequality and Financialisation?** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* FES.DE ↗
2020	**How Do Concentration and Financialisation Affect the Distribution of Income and Wealth?** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* FES.DE ↗
2020	**Does Digitalisation Increase the Role of Financial Markets in the German Economy?** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* FES.DE ↗
2020	**Does Digitalisation Lead to the Concentration of the German Economy?** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* FES.DE ↗
2020	**How Digital Is the German Economy?** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* FES.DE ↗
2020	**How Digitalisation Increases Wealth Inequality and What Can Be Done About It** Ferschli, B.; Rehm, M.; Schnetzer, M.; Zilian, S. — *A&W Blog* AWBLOG.AT ↗
2019	**The Top 1% Owns 40.5% of Wealth in Austria** Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D.; Theine, H. — *Kontrast.at* KONTRAST.AT ↗
2019	**Getting Rich through Inheritance. A Look at Established Rich Families in Austria** Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D.; Theine, H. — *Kontrast.at* KONTRAST.AT ↗
2019	**A Wealth Tax Could Double Austria's Investment in Education** Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D.; Theine, H. — *Kontrast.at* KONTRAST.AT ↗
2019	**Concentration of the German Media Market** Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D.; Theine, H. — *Heise.de* HEISE.DE ↗
2017d	**Underestimated Inequality of Wealth** Ferschli, B.; Wildauer, R. — *Blog Arbeit-Wirtschaft* AWBLOG.AT ↗
2014b	**Unhelpful Economics or the Virtue of Irresponsibility** Ferschli, B.; Grabner, D. — *Blog Arbeit-Wirtschaft* AWBLOG.AT ↗

Project Participation

06

08/2019 – 08/2021	**Research Network "Political Economy of Media in Austria"** · Principal Investigator with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine · Funded by the Vienna Chamber of Labour
12/2018 – 06/2019	**Study on Digitalisation, Monopolisation, Financialisation and Wealth Inequality in Germany** · Research Assistant with Stella Zilian under Miriam Rehm and Matthias Schnetzer · Funded by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
09/2018 – 04/2019	**Study on the Political Economy of German Media** · Principal Investigator with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine · Funded by ISW München
02/2017 – 12/2018	**Project on Wealth Distribution in Austria and the EU** · Research Assistant under Jakob Kapeller · Funded by the Vienna Chamber of Labour

Teaching

07

Winter term 2022	**International Macro-Economics** · Bachelor, University of Applied Sciences BFI
Winter term 2023	**International Macro-Economics** · Bachelor, University of Applied Sciences BFI
Winter term 2024	**International Macro-Economics** · Bachelor, University of Applied Sciences BFI
Winter term 2025	**International Macro-Economics** · Bachelor, University of Applied Sciences BFI
Winter term 2026	**Business Economics** · Second year, University of Leeds
Summer term 2026	**Economics Research Methods** · Second year, University of Leeds

Community Service

08

5.10.2025	**"Entropic Product-Dependent Technological Change"** · Presentation at Young Economist Conference, Chamber of Labour, Linz
15.5.2025	**"Competitiveness of and for Whom? The Role of Automation in the Turbulent Organization of Manufacturing Production Locations in the Austrian Automotive-Supplier Industry"** · Presentation at "Theorizing Rules of Institutions – Interdisciplinary Discussions on Competition and Beyond", Socio-Ecological Transformation Lab (SET Lab), JKU Linz
2.7.2024	**"Spurring Monopolies and Fettering Automation? Variations of Productivity, Employment and Output in OECD Automotive Sectors 2010–2019"** · Presentation at ICAE Research Seminar, Linz, Austria
22.1.2025	**"(De)-Automating the Future"** · Panel book launch discussion, Biomaterialities research group, HU Berlin, Online
4–10.8.2024	**"Cambridge Social Ontology Summer School and Workshop"** · Participant, University of Cambridge
2.7.2024	**"Spurring Monopolies and Fettering Automation? Variations of Productivity, Employment and Output in OECD Automotive Sectors 2010–2019"** · Presentation at ICAE Research Seminar, Linz, Austria
27–29.6.2024	**"Manufacturing Automation: Rationalities of Automation and Employment in the Austrian Automotive Supplier Industry"** · Presentation at SASE, Limerick, Ireland
3.4–5.4.2024	**"Manufacturing Automation: Rationalities of Automation and Employment in the Austrian Automotive Supplier Industry"** · Presentation at ILPC, Göttingen, Germany
30.1–3.2.2024	**"Manufacturing Automation: Rationalities of Automation and Employment in the Austrian Automotive Supplier Industry"** · Presentation at SISEC conference (Società Italiana di Sociologia Economica), Work, Firms and Distance, Cagliari, Italy
13–15.9.2023	**"More with Less by Fewer? Robots, Productivity and Competition in the Automotive and Manufacturing Sector 2010–2019"** · Presentation at EAEPE, Leeds, UK
5–8.9.2023	**"More with Less by Fewer? Robots, Productivity and Competition in the Automotive and Manufacturing Sector 2010–2019"** · Presentation at IIPPE, Madrid, Spain
14–19.8.2023	**"AFEE Workshop on Institutional Economics"** · Participant, Washington DC
11–13.6.2023	**"More with Less by Fewer? Robots, Productivity and Competition in the Automotive and Manufacturing Sector 2010–2019"** · Presentation at "Disrupting Technology: Contextualizing Continuity and Change in Technology, Work and Employment", Prato, Italy
17–19.5.2023	**"More with Less by Fewer? Robots, Productivity and Competition in the Automotive and Manufacturing Sector 2010–2019"** · Presentation at "Industry 4.0 Ten Years Later: Digital Transformations in Manufacturing and Work", Modena, Italy
07/2022	**"A Simple Question of More with Less by Fewer? Relating Labour-Productivity, Automation and Sectoral Concentration in the Automotive and Generalized Manufacturing Sector"** · Presentation at

	CPERN Midterm Workshop, Limerick
04/2021	**"Capitalism without Workers: On the Function of Automation and its Relation to the Question of Value"** · Presentation at ILPC, Online
04/2021	**"PhD-Seminar "Mixed Methods in Economics""** · Participant at AHE PG
06/2020	**"Concentration in Media Markets in Austria"** · Workshop organised, Chamber of Labour Vienna, with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine
03/2021	**"Proprietary Structure and Networks of Austrian Media Firms"** · Workshop organised, Chamber of Labour Vienna, with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine
01/2020	**"Digitalisation, Monopoly, Financialization and Inequality"** · Presentation at CERIC Annual Conference, "Disrupting Technologies", Leeds
10/2019	**"Digitalisation, Monopoly, Financialization and Inequality"** · Presentation at Digital Capitalism Congress, Berlin, with Stella Zilian, Miriam Rehm and Matthias Schnetzer
09/2019	**"On the Political Economy of German Media: Analysis of Concentration and Ownership"** · Presentation at the Second Regional Conference of the German Sociological Association: Great Transformation, the Future of Modern Societies, with Daniel Grabner and Hendrik Theine
07/2019	**"Digitalisation, Monopoly, Financialization and Inequality"** · Presentation at the International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy Annual Conference 2019, Lille, France
04/2019	**"Digitalisation, Monopoly, Financialization and Inequality"** · Presentation at 2nd International Conference for Economic Pluralism, BOKU Vienna, with Stella Zilian, Miriam Rehm and Matthias Schnetzer
03/2018	**"Self-Organisation in Post-Fordist Firms"** · Presentation at International Conference of Labour and Social History (ITH), JKU Linz (talk funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung)
07/2018	**"EAEPE Summer School: Deindustrialisation and Financialisation"** · Participant, Roma Tre
2017	**"Capitalism without Bosses: The Labour-Process in the Post-Fordian Firm"** · Presentation (Economic Sociology MPhil thesis) at "International Labour Process Conference", Sheffield, UK (could not attend, lack of funding)
2015	**"Towards a Late-Modern Labour-Theory: Smith, Weber, Marx and Boltanski/Chiapello"** · Presentation (Economics BSc thesis) at the Graduate Conference, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
2014	**"The Political as Implicit: Social Aesthetics and Ritual Education in Schiller, Confucius, Marx and Critical Theory"** · Presentation (Philosophy BA thesis) at the "International Žižek-Studies Conference", Cincinnati, USA

Languages

09

Native tongue(s) **German; (Burgenland)-Croatian**

OTHER	COMPREHENSION		LANGUAGE		
	LISTENING	READING	INTERACTION	PRODUCTION	WRITING
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2

Programming

10

Software **Mathematica; R**

Memberships

01	International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE)
02	Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE)
03	European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE)
04	Critical Political Economy Research Network of the European Sociological Association (CPERN)
05	International Karl Polanyi Society
06	President and Founding Member, SPE St Antony's Society for the Study of Political Economy Oxford
07	Value-Form Reading Group