Johannes Walter

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Work Experience

Researcher & Ph. D. Student
05/2019 - present

ZEW - Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research

- Employed as researcher at ZEW's Digital Economy research unit
- Research projects in progress:

  - The effect of AI Persuasion on Political Polarization:
    An online experiment to answer whether a conversation with an AI can affect political opinions at scale.
    Single-authored paper.

  - Algorithmic Advice as a Credence Good: An online experiment to investigate whether economic agents can learn the 'strengths and weaknesses' of advising algorithms.
    Working paper available here and ZEW Policy Brief here.

  - Combinatorial data valuation: We develop a method that allows to assess willingness-to-pay for data sets.
    Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

  - Third-party audits of black box-algorithms: We develop a market design framework for a platform on which AI algorithms can be audited.
    Funded by the Baden-Württemberg Foundation. ZEW Policy Brief available here.

Education

Ph. D. in Technical Economics
05/2022 - present

KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

- Visiting Ph. D. student from 09/2022 to 12/2022 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- Research presented at conferences and workshops: Annual Meeting of Verein für Socialpolitik 2024, IBEO 2024, ICT Conference 2024, ASFEE 2022, Young Economist Summit 2022
- Attended Conferences: CODE 2022 at MIT, German-American Conference 2022 at Harvard Kennedy School.
- Media attention: Reporting in the Politico Digital Future Daily newsletter, opion piece at table.media, opion piece at euractiv.

M. Sc. Economics (120 ECTS)
10/2015 - 11/2018

University of Cologne, Germany

- Semester abroad at Durham University, United Kingdom
- Specialisations: Econometrics and Behavioural Economics (GPA: 1.8)
- Master Thesis in Microeconometrics, Grade: 1.7

B. A. Governance and Public Policy (180 ECTS)   10/2011 - 06/2015
University of Passau, Germany

- Semester abroad at Charles University Prague, Czech Republic
- Economics major with courses in social sciences and law (GPA: 1.5)
- Bachelor Thesis in Labor Economics, Grade: 1.0

Internships and Student jobs

Student Trainee at Weber Shandwick   04/2017 - 07/2018
Analytics Department in Cologne

- Corporate Research: Developing a statistical model to determine the causal effects of women's uni degree choices

Student Research Assistant, University of Passau   10/2014 - 04/2015
Chair of Microeconomics

- Tutor for Labor Market Economics

Intern at Weissman & Cie.   08/2014 - 10/2014
Management Consultancy, Nuremburg

- Development of a Balanced Scorecard for a customer

Skills

Technical Skills	Python: Data handling, statistical analysis and training neural nets using pandas, scikit-learn, keras and pytorch R: Data handling, statistical analysis and visualizations using tidyverse package collection, ggplot2, plotly Web-based experiments in oTree, Django and JavaScript Academic writing in LaTeX and R Markdown Version control in Git Database query using SQL
Languages	German: native speaker English: fluent (TOEFL: total score 114/120)

Extracurricular Activities

Amnesty International   08/2010 - present
Member of the Focus Group Human Rights in the Digital Age

- Presentations about Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights at conferences, e.g. Chaos Computer Congress (rc3), Digitale Woche Kiel, University of Mainz, internal workshops for Amnesty Germany

Improvisational Theatre   09/2011 - present
Member of different improv groups in Passau, Cologne, Mannheim & Stuttgart

- Performing in front of live audiences
- Organizing and participating in workshops and regular practice sessions