

OLIVER BOGDAN WACH

This version: September 2026

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🌐 <https://oliverwach.github.io>

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Economic History, Development Economics, Political Economy

REFERENCES

Prof. Theocharis Grigoriadis, Ph.D.

Freie Universität Berlin
theocharis.grigoriadis@fu-berlin.de

Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Wolf

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
nikolaus.wolf@wiwi.hu-berlin.de

Prof. Dr. Cathrin Mohr

IfW Kiel & Universität Hamburg
cathrin.mohr@ifw-kiel.de

Prof. Sascha O. Becker, Ph.D.

University of Warwick
S.O.Becker@warwick.ac.uk

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics

Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin

Thesis title: "Essays in Comparative Economics and Political Economy"

Supervisors: Prof. Theocharis Grigoriadis, Ph.D. and Prof. Nikolaus Wolf, Ph.D.

Committee: Prof. Dr. Max Steinhardt and Prof. Natalia Danzer, Ph.D.

10/2020 – 07/2026

M.Sc. in Economics

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin

Thesis: "Political Extremism and its Historical Determinants in the GDR"

Supervisor: Prof. Alexandra Spitz-Oener, Ph.D.

10/2017 – 05/2020

B.Sc. in Economics

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

Thesis title: "Genetic Variation and Economic Development"

Supervisor: Prof. Davide Cantoni, Ph.D.

04/2014 – 08/2017

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher

Department of Economics, University of Mannheim
with Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D.

09/2026 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant

Institute for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
to Prof. Theocharis Grigoriadis, Ph.D.

10/2020 – 08/2026

Student Research Assistant

Institute for Applied Microeconomics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
to Prof. Alexandra Spitz-Oener, Ph.D.

09/2017 – 06/2020

Student Research Assistant

Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich
to Dr. Frank Mueller-Langer

10/2015 – 08/2016

Intern

Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Vienna
at the Consulate and the Economic-Political Department

02/2016 – 04/2016

RESEARCH STAYS AND VISITS

Warwick University , Coventry - United Kingdom Visiting Research Student in Economics Hosted by Professor Sascha O. Becker	10/2024
Universidad Carlos III Madrid , Madrid - Spain Visiting Ph.D. Candidate in Economics at the "Figuerola" Institute of Economic History and the Social Science Department	02/2024 – 05/2024
Higher School of Economics , Moscow - Russia MA Semester abroad, International Exchange at HU Berlin	09/2018 – 12/2018
Reichmann University (Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya) , Herzliya - Israel BA Semester abroad, International Exchange at LMU Munich	08/2016 – 03/2017

WORKING PAPERS

- Building Socialism on Abandoned Land: The Social Impact of Collectivization in Poland**
Single Author
- The Shadow of Communism in American Politics: Evidence from the US Congress**
With Theodor Grigoriadis and Max Steinhardt

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Waiting for the Call: Militarization and Fertility**
with Pierre Ryckewaert and David Zuchowski
- When the Past Becomes Salient: Repression and the Political Economy in Poland**
Single Author
- War and Worship: The Religious Impact of Swedish Invasions in Poland**
Single Author
- Dividing Empires, Divergent Norms: The Impact of Polish Partitions on Gender Norms and Outcomes**
With Piotr Paweł Larysz, Denise Barth, Iga Magda, and Natalia Danzer

GRANTS

Joachim Herz Stiftung Add-on Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Economics and Business (2023): 12,500 EUR; Santander Open Academy Scholarship for Erasmus+ (2024): 500 EUR; Erasmus+ Grant for Academic Mobility (2024): 1,926 EUR

REFEREEING

Academic Journals: Economic Journal; European Review of Economic History
Organisations: Polish National Science Centre (Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN)
Others: Warwick Reinvention Journal, Annual Meeting of the European Association of Young Economists

SERVICES

Chair of the Decentralised Election Commission, OEI Organisation and implementation of department and university elections.	2023 – 2025
Module and Course Coordination, Department of Economics, OEI Planning and organisation of modules; ensuring coherence across the programmes.	2022 – 2025
Joint MSc Economic Systems (FU Berlin – University of Belgrade) Support in development and accreditation: module handbook, partner coordination, peer consultation (<i>Fachgespräche</i>).	2021 – 2024
Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences (Organisation) "Russia's War against Ukraine" – Roundtable (2022); "South Caucasus and the EU" – LNdW Berlin (2024); "Research Club" (2022–2023); PhD Workshops (2023–2024); "Eastern European Migration" – WEHC Lund (2025).	2022 – 2025
Outreach and Collaboration Participation in OEI–Leibniz Centre project on Ukrainian history for schools (2022–2023); design and curatorial support for exhibition "70 Years of the OEI" (2021); student excursions to Szczecin (2024) and Poznań (2025).	2021 – 2025
Contribution to Third-party Funding Applications DAAD Direct Exchange with Eurasian Universities (€35,000); DAAD Berlin-Tashkent Partnership in Economics (82,000€); DAAD German-Uzbek Relations: Energy & Sustainability (38,000€); Jean Monnet Chair in External Economic Relations of the European Union (47,000€); DAAD Germany in South Caucasus: Institutions & Development (50,000€); DAAD Leonhard Euler Program Exchange Partnership with Odessa National University (11,000€); DAAD Leonhard Euler Program Exchange Partnership with National University of Uzbekistan (13,000€); DAAD Leonhard Euler Program Exchange Partnership with Odessa National University and Lviv National University (18,000€); DAAD Leonhard Euler Program Exchange Partnership with National University of Uzbekistan and Samarkand State University (19,000€)	2022 – 2025

PRESENTATIONS

Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) seminar series at Stellenbosch University (invited)	2026
Humboldt Universität Berlin: Reading Group Economic History	2025
George Mason University: ASREC Conference	
Lund University: World Economic History Congress	
Freie Universität Berlin: Seminar Applied Microeconomics	2024
University Carlos III of Madrid: Economic History Causal Seminar (invited)	
University Carlos III of Madrid: YSI Workshop of Developing Region	
Uppsala University: Workshop in Economic History	
Paris School of Economics: Applied Economic Seminar (invited)	
Monash University (Online): Applied Young Economist Webinar	
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin: Economic History Seminar (invited)	
Lund University: 15th Swedish Economic History Meeting	2023
Vienna University of Economics and Business: 15th EHES Conference	
University of Toledo: XXV Applied Economics Meeting (AEM)	
Masaryk University Brno: Young Economists' Meeting (YEM)	
Universidad Complutense Madrid (Online): 43rd EBES Conference	
BMBF Berlin: Werkstattgespräch – "Landschaften der Verfolgung"	

Freie Universität Berlin: CEECON Congress of Central and East European Studies
 Lund University: ESTER Research Design Course
 Cusanuswerk Leipzig: Fachschaftstagung Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften (invited)

2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gender and Development	2021, 2023
· Freie Universität Berlin · Applied economics seminar: Economic History and Development Economics with a focus on Gender.	
Economic History	2020, 2022
· Freie Universität Berlin · Applied economics seminar: Economic History, Development Economics, and Political Economy with a focus on Poland and the Region.	
Project Seminar	2021, 2023, 2025
· Institute for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin · Seminar topic: In this mandatory course, students work in groups to design and implement a year-long project, supported by topical lectures and methodological workshops.	

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Certificate: Support for Teaching (Hochschuldidaktisches Zertifikat)	2021–2025
· Freie Universität Berlin — Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counseling · University teaching certificate program, comprising core modules, portfolio and transfer workshops, advanced training, and a teaching project (220 working hours).	

SUPERVISION

Master Theses, East European Studies (Second Supervisor) - 13x (2021-2024)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software and Tools: R, Stata, $\text{\LaTeX}$, Python, GIS, LLM prompting and API

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

German	Native speaker	Spanish	Basic knowledge
Polish	Native speaker	Hebrew	Basic knowledge
English	Proficient	French	Basic knowledge
Russian	Advanced knowledge	Swedish	Basic knowledge, learning