

Dimitria Freitas

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Personal Website

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, TU Dresden	Oct 2020 – present
<i>Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Alexander Kemnitz (TUD), Prof. Dr. Gabriel Ahlfeldt (Humboldt University)</i>	
M.A. in International Relations, TU Dresden	2016 – 2019
B.A. in Business Administration, DHBW Mannheim	2013 – 2016

Academic Positions

Researcher, Humboldt University Berlin & Thünen Institute	Apr 2026 – present
Visiting Ph.D. Student, Humboldt University Berlin	Apr 2025 – Mar 2026
Visiting Ph.D. Student, University of Barcelona	Oct 2023 – Dec 2023

Previous Employment

SAP SE	Sept 2013 – Aug 2021
Progressive roles from Working Student to Senior Solution Specialist for Global Public Services	

Research Interests

Labour economics, spatial and urban economics, political economy

Job Market Paper

Public Sector Relocation and Regional Development in Germany

As regional economic disparities within countries grow, governments are increasingly experimenting with public employment reallocation as a place-based policy. In this paper, I estimate the causal effect on local labour markets of a German policy that relocated about 3,000 public sector jobs to lagging regions. Using novel data on 60 agency relocations from 2015–2025, I estimate employment and population effects for receiving and sending municipalities and use the results to discipline a quantitative spatial model that simulates spatial reallocation and welfare effects. I find that relocations increased private employment shares by up to 2.3% (1.3 percentage points), reduced unemployment by up to 11.9% (0.33 percentage points), and raised population by 1.6%, implying a public-to-private jobs multiplier of 1.08 in receiving locations. Sending locations also see an increase in private sector employment that is rationalized in the model by within-private-sector spillovers exceeding public-to-private sector spillovers.

Book Chapters

- Freitas, D. (2026) forthcoming. The Potential of Public Employment Reallocation as a Place-Based Policy. In NBER conference volume, edited by Cecile Gaubert, Gordon H. Hanson, and David Neumark.

Working Papers

- Do Place-Based Policies Matter at the Poll? (with Luisa Doerr and Florian Dorn)
- The Drivers of Far-Right Populism in Western Countries (with Patrick Zwerschke)
- A Comment on Xu (2022): Reshaping Global Trade: The Immediate and Long-Term Effects of Bank Failures (with Guillaume Bérard and Priyam Verma)

Work in Progress

- The Growth–Affordability Trade-off in Zoning (with Gabriel Ahlfeldt, Jan Bakker, and Nina Gläser)

We develop and quantify a spatial general equilibrium model to study growth–affordability trade-offs in land-use zoning. The model is disciplined using a unique micro-geographic dataset covering commercial and residential rents, employment, and wages for all of Germany. Counterfactual simulations show that constraining residential supply lowers office rents, fosters agglomeration and productivity, and raises output, but increases housing costs and harms low-skilled workers. Conversely, prioritizing residential development improves affordability and benefits low-skilled households, yet dampens productivity and wage growth. Our results highlight fundamental distributional trade-offs embedded in zoning policy and their implications for welfare and inequality.

Policy Papers

- Freitas, D., Syga, S. (2022). “35 cents less for gasoline and 17 cents less for diesel – The fuel tax reduction was passed on to consumers, on average.” *ifo Dresden berichtet*, 29, 13–18.
Coverage: German Competition Authority - Bundeskartellamt, German Parliament - Bundestag, DNN

Seminars & Conferences

- **2026:** IAB Research Colloquium (invited), Max-Planck Institute Seminar on Political Economy (invited), LSE Early Career Women in Economic Geography and Spatial Economics; SOEP Brown Bag, UEA Summer School (Presentation), IZA/LISER Summer School (Presentation), Berlin PhD Seminar in Economics, EALE 2026, UEA North American Meeting
- **2025:** CEPR Paris Symposium; CREST Urban PhD Workshop; Public Economics Colloquium Leipzig (invited); 6th World labour Conference; European Public Choice Society Meeting; 14th UEA European Meeting
- **2024:** NBER Conference on the Economics of Place-Based Policies; Aix-Marseille Research Seminar (invited); RSA Annual Conference; 13th UEA European Meeting; Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics; AQR Barcelona Research Seminar (invited)
- **2023:** IEB Barcelona Work in Progress Seminar; 13th ifo Dresden Workshop on Regional Economics; 10th CGDE Doctoral Workshop
- **2022:** 12th ifo Dresden Workshop on Regional Economics

Teaching

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| • Introduction to Econometrics | ST 2026 |
| • Game Theory Experiments with Large Language Models | ST 2025 |
| • Economics of Innovation, Automation, and Artificial Intelligence | ST 2024 |
| • The New Age of AI – The Impact of ChatGPT on labour Market Outcomes | WT 2023 |
| • Economics of Inequality, exercise class (Bachelor level) | ST 2023 |
| • Current Topics in Economic Policy, seminar (Bachelor level) | ST 2022 |
| • Fake News, Media Bias and Voting Behaviour, seminar (Master level) | WT 2021 |
| • Microeconomics, exercise class (Bachelor level) | ST 2021 |
| • Economics of Populism, seminar (Master level) | WT 2020 |
| • Introduction to International Institutions, seminar (Bachelor level) | WT 2020 |
| • Supervision of 10+ bachelor and master theses | WT 2020 – WT 2025 |
| • Research seminar in economic policy (Master level) | WT 2020 – WT 2025 |

Ph.D. Coursework

Coursework in quantitative spatial economics, causal inference, advanced microeconomics, advanced econometrics, labour economics, development economics, and machine learning,

including training at the Berlin School of Economics, LSE, Oxford University, IWH Halle, and TU Dresden.

Fellowships & Awards

- SOLE Best Poster Award 2025
- Erasmus+ Travel Grant 2023
- TU Dresden Graduate Academy Travel Grant 2022
- Award for Best Bachelor Thesis in collaboration with SAP 2016
- German National Academic Foundation Scholarship 2013 – 2016

Languages

Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Portuguese	Proficient (C2)	Proficient (C2)	Proficient (C2)
German	Proficient (C2)	Proficient (C2)	Proficient (C2)
English	Proficient (C2)	Proficient (C1)	Proficient (C1)
French	Upper-intermediate (B2)	Proficient (C1)	Upper-intermediate (B2)
Spanish	Proficient (C1)	Upper-intermediate (B2)	Upper-intermediate (B2)
Russian	Basic (A1–A2)	Basic (A1–A2)	Basic (A1–A2)

Technical Skills

Stata, R, Python, SQL, $\text{\LaTeX}$, MATLAB, HTML/CSS, MS Office

Academic Service

- Referee for *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 2026 – present
- Referee for *Regional Studies* 2026 – present
- Organiser of the BQSE Research Seminars, HU Berlin 2025 – 2026
- Editorial Board Chair, *PolisReflects* (student-led journal) 2020 – 2022
- Speaker for Non-Tenured Research Staff, TU Dresden 2020 – 2021

References

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