Dimitria Freitas
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Research Interests

Labor economics, urban economics, and political economy

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, TU Dresden — Oct 2020 – Mar 2027 (expected)
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Alexander Kemnitz (TU Dresden), Prof. Dr. Gabriel Ahlfeldt (Humboldt University)
M.A. in International Relations, TU Dresden — 2016 – 2019
B.A. in Business Administration, DHBW Mannheim — 2013 – 2016

Academic Positions

Research fellow, Humboldt University — Apr 2026 – present
Research fellow, Thuenen 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
Research Associate, TU Dresden — Oct 2020 – Sep 2026

Previous Employment

SAP SE, Germany and Singapore — Sep 2013 – Aug 2021
- Senior Solution Specialist, Global Public Services — Jan 2021 – Aug 2021
- Solution Specialist, Global Public Services — Jan 2019 – Dec 2020
- Working Master's Student, Global Public Services — Oct 2016 – Dec 2018
- Working Bachelor's Student, dual study programme — Sep 2013 – Sep 2016

Selected work: developed a public-sector digital-readiness index covering 151 countries and SAP's China Public Services strategy; engaged with visiting ministerial delegations.

Job Market Paper

Freitas, D. (2026). The Effect of Public Sector Relocations on Regional Development in Germany.
SOLE Best Poster Award, 6th World Labor Conference, Toronto, 2025
Can governments create private sector jobs in lagging regions by relocating public sector employees? I study a program moving about 5,200 public sector jobs from thriving cities to lagging towns in one of Germany's largest states. Using linked employer-employee social security records, I compare municipalities affected by the relocations with similar municipalities outside the policy state. Between 2014 and 2024, local private employment in receiving municipalities rises by 2.8% relative to matched municipalities, with no offsetting decline in sending municipalities. Following individual public sector workers affected by the relocations, I find that jobs move, but people do not.

Book Chapters

- Freitas, D. (2026). The Potential of Public Employment Reallocation as a Place-Based Policy. In *The Economics of Place-Based Policies*, edited by Cécile Gaubert, Gordon H. Hanson, and David Neumark, chap. 7. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Working Papers

- Dörr, L., Dorn, F., Freitas, D. (2026). Do Place-Based Policies Matter at the Poll?

- Freitas, D., Zwerschke, P. (2026). The Drivers of Far-Right Populism in Western Countries.
- Bérard, G., Freitas, D., Verma, P. (2023). A Comment on Xu (2022): "Reshaping Global Trade: The Immediate and Long-Term Effects of Bank Failures". *I4R Discussion Paper* No. 85.

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.
  Cited in policy reports by the Bundeskartellamt (Federal Antitrust Agency), refinery-sector inquiry and the Monopolies Commission, report to the German Bundestag. Media coverage: DNN.

Seminars & Conferences

- **2026:** IAB Research Colloquium (invited); Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (invited); LSE Early Career Women in Economic Geography and Spatial Economics; SOEP Brown Bag; UEA Summer School; IZA/LISER Summer School; Berlin PhD Seminar in Economics; EALE 2026; UEA North American Meeting
- **2025:** CEPR Paris Symposium (poster); CREST Urban PhD Workshop; Public Economics Colloquium Leipzig (invited); 6th World Labor Conference (poster); 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

Instructor, independently designed seminars, TU Dresden

- Game Theory Experiments with Large Language Models — Summer 2025
- Economics of Innovation, Automation, and Artificial Intelligence — Summer 2024
- The New Age of AI – The Impact of ChatGPT on Labour Market Outcomes — Winter 2023/24
- Current Topics in Economic Policy (Bachelor level) — Summer 2022
- Fake News, Media Bias and Voting Behaviour (Master level) — Winter 2021/22
- Economics of Populism (Master level) — Winter 2020/21
- Introduction to International Institutions (Bachelor level) — Winter 2020/21

Teaching assistant, tutorials

- Introduction to Econometrics, HU Berlin; about 70 students per week — Summer 2026
- Economics of Inequality (Bachelor level), TU Dresden; about 30 students — Summer 2023
- Microeconomics (Bachelor level), TU Dresden; about 70 students per week — Summer 2021

Supervision, TU Dresden

- Supervision of 10+ bachelor's and master's theses — Winter 2020/21 – Winter 2025/26
- Research seminar in economic policy (Master level) — Winter 2020/21 – Winter 2025/26

Fellowships & Awards

- Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Best Poster Award, 6th World Labor Conference — 2025
- Erasmus+ Travel Grant — 2023
- TU Dresden Graduate Academy Travel Grant — 2022
- Award for Best Bachelor Thesis, in collaboration with SAP — 2016
- Scholarship, German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung) — 2013 – 2016

Languages

German and Portuguese (bilingual), English (C1–C2), French (B2–C1), Spanish (B2–C1), Russian (A1–A2)

Technical Skills

Stata, R, Python, SQL, LaTeX, MATLAB

Academic Service

Referee for *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and *Regional Studies* — 2026 – present
Organiser, Berlin Quantitative Spatial Economics 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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Humboldt University Berlin
Spandauer Strasse 1
10178 Berlin
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Jan Bakker
Bocconi University
Via Roentgen 1
20136 Milan, Italy
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