JOHANNES BÖKEN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

APPLIED MICROECONOMICS, POLITICAL ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

PhD Economics, University of Warwick   2020 - 2024 (expected)
Supervisors: Lucie Gadenne, Mirko Draca, Andreas Stegmann

MRes Economics, University of Warwick (with distinction)   2018 - 2020

MSc Economics, University of Mannheim   2015 - 2018

BSc Economics, University of Mannheim, with minor in Mathematics   2012 - 2015
Visiting student, University of Warwick   2014

WORKING PAPERS

- **Global Networks, Local Protests - Social Media and the Rise of Fridays for Future**
  Job Market Paper

  Abstract: How do global social media networks shape collective action? To answer this question, I study the diffusion of the Fridays for Future climate movement in Europe. I construct a weekly panel of local protests and exposure to protests in other European locations through social media connections. Using weather shocks as instruments, I find that increasing protest exposure by one standard deviation doubles the probability of local protest activity in the following week. This implies that, on average, a week of protests causes protests in .28 other locations in the sample through spillovers. Further evidence suggests that online networks can substitute previous political networks, improving local coordination and mobilizing new supporters. Moreover, I investigate how social exposure to protests shifts environmental voting. My findings highlight the role of global network effects in organizing collective action in the age of social media.

- **Community Networks and Trade** (with L. Gadenne, T. Nandi and M. Santamaria)
  Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of the European Economic Association*

  Abstract: Do community networks shape firm-to-firm trade in emerging economies? We study the role of communities in facilitating firm-to-firm trade and firm outcomes using data on firm-to-firm transactions and firm owners' community (castes) affiliations for the universe of medium- and large-sized firms in West Bengal, India. We find that firms are substantially more likely to trade, and trade more, with firms from their own caste. Studying the mechanisms underlying this effect, we find evidence consistent both with castes alleviating trade frictions and taste-based discrimination by firms against those outside their community. Guided by these stylized facts, we develop a model of firm-to-firm trade in which communities affect pair productivity and matching costs and estimate the model using our reduced-form estimates. A counterfactual extending the positive effects of castes on

trade to *all* potential supplier-client pairs would increase the number of network links by 60% and increase average firm-to-firm sales by 20%.

- **The Returns to Viral Media: The Case of US Campaign Contributions**
(with M. Draca, N. Mastorocco and A. Ornaghi)
Submitted

  Abstract: Social media has changed the structure of mass communication. In this paper we explore its role in influencing political donations. Using a daily dataset of campaign contributions and Twitter activity for US Members of Congress 2019-2020, we find that attention on Twitter (as measured by likes) is positively correlated with the amount of daily small donations received. However, this is not true for everybody: the impact on campaign donations is highly skewed, indicating very concentrated returns to attention that are in line with a 'winner-takes-all' market. Our results are confirmed in a geography-based causal design linking member's donations across states.

TEACHING

University of Warwick
Teaching Assistant, Applied Econometrics (undergraduate)   2020 - 2022

University of Mannheim
Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics I (undergraduate)   Feb 2014 - May 2014

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Warwick
Research Assistant for Prof. Lucie Gadenne   Nov 2019 - Mar 2020

Centre for European Economic Research Mannheim
Research Assistant, Research Group *Market Design*   2017
Full-time Intern, Research Group *Market Design*   Jan 2018 - June 2018

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer of the CAGE research away day (full-day workshop)   2022

Co-founder and co-organizer of *Coding in Economics* reading group   2022 - 2023

Mentor for *Economics Applicant Mentoring Programme (AMP)*,   2023
supporting PhD applicants from underrepresented backgrounds

PRESENTATIONS

Warwick-Turing Economics Data Science Workshop, European Meeting of the   2023
Urban Economics Association (Milan), NICEP Conference (Nottingham)

Warwick PhD Forum, CAGE Summer School (Warwick)   2022

SKILLS

Computing STATA, LaTeX, Python, R, Matlab
Languages German (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Lucie Gadenne
Associate Professor,
School of Economics and Finance,
QMUL
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(on maternity leave,
reference available via
economics.jobmarket@warwick.ac.uk)

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