

# Sebastian O. Schneider

Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods

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## Research Areas

- Experimental and behavioral economics, especially individual decision-making and its consequences with applications in financial as well as development, health, environmental and organizational economic contexts
- Econometric and statistical methods for behavioral research (“Economic Data Science”)

## Employment

**Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods** **Bonn (Germany)**  
*Senior Research Fellow, Experimental Economics Group of Matthias Sutter* *since 12/2017*  
Parental leave/child care (2 days a week) *since 12/2022*

**University of Goettingen** **Goettingen (Germany)**  
*Research Fellow* *05/2014-11/2017*

## Education

**PhD in Economics** **University of Goettingen (Germany)**  
*Area: Development Economics and Stochastics; final grade: Summa cum laude* *05/2014-11/2017*

Supervision: M. Ibanez (Chair of Behavioral Development Economics, University of Goettingen)

M. Schlather (Chair of Applied Stochastics, University of Mannheim)

**Certificate “Applied Statistics and Empirical Methods”** **University of Goettingen (Germany)**  
*PhD course program for graduates in Statistics, offered by the Centre of Statistics* *05/2014-07/2017*

**M. Sc. Mathematics in Business and Economics** **University of Mannheim (Germany)**  
*Major in Stochastics, final grade: 1.3 (scale 1-5, 1 being best)* *08/2011-04/2014*

**B. Sc. Mathematics in Business and Economics** **University of Mannheim (Germany)**  
*Major in Mathematical Finance* *08/2008-06/2011*

**Abitur/A-Levels** **Oberndorf am Neckar (Germany)**  
*Final grade 1.0 (scale 1-6, 1 being best)* *09/1998-06/2007*

## Research/List of Publications

### Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Barron K, Harmgart H, Huck S, **Schneider SO**, Sutter M (2023). Discrimination, Narratives and Family History: An Experiment with Jordanian Host and Syrian Refugee Children. **Review of Economics and Statistics** 105(4), 1–9

### Revisions for Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Sutter M, Weyland M, Untertrifaller A, Froitzheim M, **Schneider SO** (2023). Financial literacy, experimental preference measures and field behavior – A randomized educational intervention. MPI Working Paper 2023/3. **Revision requested by the Journal of Political Economy (resubmitted)**
- Ibanez M, **Schneider SO** (2023). Income Risk, Precautionary Saving, and Loss Aversion – An Empirical Test. MPI Working Paper 2023/6. **Reject & Resubmit at Management Science (resubmitted)**
- **Schneider SO**, Sutter M (2022). Higher-Order Risk Preferences: New Experimental Measures, Determinants and Field Behavior. IZA Discussion Paper No. 13646. **Revision requested by the American Economic Review (resubmitted)**

## Working Papers

- Chowdhury S, Schildberg-Hörisch H, **Schneider SO**, Sutter M (2022). Information Provision over the Phone Saves Lives: A Randomized Controlled Trial to Contain COVID-19 in Rural Bangladesh at the Pandemic's Onset. Discussion Papers of the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, 2022/9
- Momsen K, **Schneider SO** (2022). Motivated Reasoning, Information Avoidance and Default Bias. Discussion Papers of the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, 2022/3
- **Schneider SO**, Ibanez M, Riener G (2022). Measuring Utility – An Application to Higher-Order Risk and Saving in Bogota. Working Paper MPI Bonn. Available at [sebastianoschneider.com/media/working\\_paper/SchneiderIbanezRienerMeasuringUtility.pdf](http://sebastianoschneider.com/media/working_paper/SchneiderIbanezRienerMeasuringUtility.pdf)
- **Schneider SO**, Schlather M (2021). Rerandomization to Improve Covariate Balance by Minimizing the MSE of a Treatment Effect Estimator. Available at [sebastianoschneider.com/media/working\\_paper/SchneiderSchlatherMinMSE.pdf](http://sebastianoschneider.com/media/working_paper/SchneiderSchlatherMinMSE.pdf), replaces earlier version circulated as “A New Approach to Treatment Assignment for One and Multiple Treatment Groups”, Courant Research Centre Discussion Paper 228
- Riener G, **Schneider SO**, Wagner V (2021). Addressing Validity and Generalizability Concerns in Field Experiments. Discussion Papers of the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, 2020/16

## Work in Progress

- Heterogeneity in Effort Provision: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-field Experiment, with Z. Bašić, S. Bortolotti, D. Salicath, S. Schmidt, and M. Sutter. Draft in preparation
- Social Norms, Political Polarization, and Vaccination Behavior: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Turkey, with M. Kaba, M Koyuncu, and M. Sutter. Draft in preparation
- oTree: Ready-made Apps for Elicitation of Higher-Order Risk Preferences in the Spirit of Deck & Schlesinger (2010), Ebert & Wiesen (2014), and Schneider, Ibanez & Riener (2022). Draft in preparation
- Evaluation of an Intervention to Shape Higher-Order Risk Preferences, Healthy and Environmentally Friendly Behavior in Adolescents, with L. Breitkopf, H. Schildberg-Hörisch and M. Sutter. Analysis ongoing
- Spatial Patterns in Preferences, with M. Puente Beccar, H. Schildberg-Hörisch and M. Sutter. Analysis ongoing
- Higher-Order Risk Preferences, Financial Decision-Making, Sustainable Consumption, and Addiction – Evidence from the General German Population (SOEP), with S. Trautmann and S. Riedmiller. Data collection ongoing
- An Intervention to Increase Activity Among Adolescents: The Role of Economic Preferences, with S. Czermak and C. Zoller. Data collection completed

## Software

- **Schneider SO**, Baldini G (2021a). Software for Elicitation of Higher-Order Risk Preferences (in Python for use with oTree); available via [gitlab.gwdg.de/portal.sschne1/horp-otree-apps](https://gitlab.gwdg.de/portal.sschne1/horp-otree-apps)  
Show-case/demo: [horp-otree-apps.sebastianoschneider.com/](http://horp-otree-apps.sebastianoschneider.com/)
- **Schneider SO** (2021a). R Package for Estimating Utility Curves and Higher-Order Risk Preferences from Utility Points According to Schneider et al. (2022); available via CRAN: [CRAN: CRAN.R-project.org/package=utilityFunctionTools](https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=utilityFunctionTools), package name 'utilityFunctionTools'
- **Schneider SO**, Baldini G (2021b). Software Package for Treatment Assignment for One And Multiple Treatment Groups (R package); available via CRAN: [CRAN: CRAN.R-project.org/package=minMSE](https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=minMSE), package name 'minMSE'
- **Schneider SO** (2021b). MINMSE: Stata Module to Create Balanced Groups for Treatment in Experiments with one or Several Treatment Arms (Stata ado-package). Statistical Software Components S458939, Boston College Department of Economics. Available via RePEc: [ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s458939.html](https://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s458939.html)

## Dissertation

- **Schneider SO** (2017). Advances and Applications of Experimental Measures to Test Behavioral Saving Theories and a Method to Increase Efficiency in Binary and Multiple Treatment Assignment; available at <http://hdl.handle.net/11858/00-1735-0000-002E-E306-0>

## Grants, Scholarships, Awards and Successful Proposals

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- 2021-2024** Project grant and scholarship (€40,000, project number 32-09/20, single PI), Daimler and Benz Foundation: “Introducing and evaluating app-based campaigns to prevent smartphone addiction and improve mental health among adolescents”
- 2020, 2023** Project grant/fee waiver (€30,164, money equivalent, estimated), SOEP at DIW, Berlin: “(Repeated) Measurement of Higher-Order Risk Preferences in the SOEP-Innovation Sample” in 2020 and 2023. Selection of my method to elicit higher-order risk preferences (Schneider et al., 2021) for free implementation in the innovation sample of the German Socio-Economic Panel including data collection. (Estimation based on equivalent implementation in Bangladesh plus fee for representative samples as charged by Prolific)
- 2021-2023** Project grant (€854,490, Sachbeihilfe SCHI 1377/1-2), German National Science Foundation (DFG), grantee Hannah Schildberg-Hörisch: “Towards a better understanding of the development of non-cognitive skills in children: The role of parents, social environment and exogenous shocks”. Initiation of and cooperation partner in the sub-projects “Evaluation of an intervention to shape higher-order risk preferences, healthy and environmentally friendly behavior in adolescents” and “Spatial patterns in preferences”
- 2015-2017** PhD Scholarship (€45,950, project title “Mathematics and development economics”), Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) via Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft (Foundation of German Business, merit scholarship)
- 2011-2012** Bronnbacher Stipendium, Kulturkreis der dt. Wirtschaft im BDI (Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy at the Federation of German Industries) and Univ. Mannheim
- 2009-2010** Tuition fee waiver (“Gebührenstipendium”, merit scholarship), University of Mannheim
- 2009-2014** Study grant, Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft (merit scholarship)
- 2007** Award for outstanding social commitment, Gymnasium am Rosenberg, Oberndorf am Neckar

## Teaching, Workshops and Supervision

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- SS '23** Experimental Approaches in Behavioral Health Economics (lecture in the context of the BEHnet summer school on behavioral health economics), Erasmus Center for Health Economics Research, University of Rotterdam
- SS '23** Advanced Behavioral Economics/Econometrics for Behavioral Economists (weekly lecture and exercise session, Research Master/PhD level), University of Cologne
- SS '22** Machine Learning for Behavioral Research (five-unit block course (summer school), lecture and exercise session, PhD level), International Max Planck Research School ‘BeSmart’
- WS '21/'22** Statistical Training (one-semester practical offered by the Chair of Statistics (T. Kneib), project partner & team advisor, Master level), University of Goettingen
- SS '21** Advanced Behavioral Economics/Econometrics for Behavioral Economists (weekly lecture and exercise session, Research Master/PhD level), University of Cologne
- SS '21** Experimental Design (two-days block course (summer school), lecture and exercise session, PhD level), International Max Planck Research School ‘BeSmart’
- WS '17/'18** Advanced Microeconomics (weekly tutorial, Master level), University of Goettingen
- SS '17,**  
**SS '16** Structural Estimation for Risk and Time Preferences (two-days block course, lecture and exercise session, PhD/Master Level), University of Goettingen
- Supervision** Master’s theses:  
Carsten Dolle (“Using spatial models to explain non-cognitive skills”, Co-supervision with T. Kneib, Chair of Statistics, University of Goettingen, 2022); Sonia Triviño (“Saving for the old age: an analysis under prospect theory”, Co-supervision with M. Ibanez, Chair of Development Economics, University of Goettingen, 2015)

## Conferences, Workshops and Invited Talks (since 2017)

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- 2023** M-BEPS, Maastricht  
NHH/MPI Workshop on Behavioral Economics (online)  
University of Amsterdam  
SAFE/Goethe University Frankfurt
- 2022** University of Regensburg  
University of Duesseldorf  
European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Milan  
Foundations of Utility and Risk, Gent  
CSAE (Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford) Conference (online)
- 2021** Conference on Experimental Insights from Behavioral Economics on Covid-19, JHU Hopkins  
Business of Health Initiative (HBHI) and LSE Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science (online)  
International Conference on Globalization and Development, Goettingen (online)  
UC Santa Barbara/MPI Workshop on Behavioral Economics (online)  
UC San Diego/MPI Workshop on Behavioral Economics (online)  
iHEA (International Health Economics Association) World Congress (online)  
EEA (European Economic Association) World Congress (online)  
WZB/MPI Workshop on Behavioral Economics (online)  
ZEW/Uni Mannheim Experimental Seminar (online, invited)
- 2020** NBER Development Economics Meeting (online)  
GEA (German Economic Association, VfS) Annual Conference, Cologne (online)  
World Meeting of the Econometric Society, Milan (online)  
7th Workshop in Behavioral and Experimental Health Economics, Innsbruck
- 2019** Brown Bag Seminar, UC Santa Barbara  
North-American ESA Meeting and Workshop on Experiments with Children, Los Angeles  
Nordic Conference on Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Kiel  
European ESA Meeting, Dijon  
Workshop Behavioral Insights in Development and Peace Building, Goettingen  
TIBER, Tilburg  
Brown Bag Seminar, University of Mainz  
M-BEPS, Maastricht  
IMEBESS, Utrecht
- 2018** MPI/CREED Workshop, Bonn  
Foundations of Utility and Risk, York  
Experimental Finance Conference, Heidelberg  
M-BEES, Maastricht  
Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries (SEEDDEC), Wageningen  
Inaugural Conference, Experimental Economics Group, MPI Bonn, Bonn  
International Conference on Globalization and Development, Goettingen  
German Probability and Statistics Days, Freiburg
- 2017** Development Lunch Seminar, UC Berkeley  
North-American ESA Meeting, Richmond (VA)

European ESA Meeting, Vienna  
GEA Annual Conference, Vienna  
Centre for Statistics (ZfS) University of Goettingen, On-site Evaluation, Goettingen  
GEA AEL (Research Group on Development Economics) Annual Conference, Goettingen  
Graduate Seminar Applied Statistics and Econometrics, Goettingen

## Research Visits and Stays Abroad

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University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), invited by Theo Offerman	05/2023
University of California, Santa Barbara (USA), invited by Gary Charness	10/2019
University of California, Berkeley (USA), invited by Elisabeth Sadoulet	10/2017
Exchange semesters in Nice (France) and Lima (Peru)	2010, 2012

## Refereeing & Editorial Services

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Refereeing for: *Econometrica*, *Economic Journal*, *European Economic Review*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Management Science*, *Quantitative Economics*

Associate Editor (since 2022): *Frontiers in Behavioral Economics*, Section "Health Behaviors"

## Media Appearance

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<b>Print</b>	03/2023: Interview for the (German) magazine "Harvard Business Manager" about our study on default options and information avoidance: " <a href="#">Warum Faulheit zu Fehlern führt</a> " ["Why Laziness Leads to Mistakes"]. 08/2022: Article in the (German) newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" about findings from our study to contain Covid-19 in Bangladesh: " <a href="#">Mit dem Callcenter gegen Corona</a> " ["Fighting Covid using call centers"].
<b>TV</b>	05/2021: TV appearance in the (German) TV show "Campus Talks" (in the spirit of TED Talks) on ARD alpha/BR about findings from our study to contain Covid-19 in Bangladesh: " <a href="#">Wie man Menschen dazu bringt, Corona-Maßnahmen zu befolgen</a> " ["How to get people to follow Corona measures"].
<b>Radio/Podcast</b>	03/2021: Interview for the (German) podcast "Die Profis" on radioeins rbb about findings from a study to contain Covid-19 in Bangladesh: " <a href="#">Warum wir uns an Hygieneregeln halten oder nicht</a> " ["Why we do follow hygiene rules or not"]

## Experience in Academic and Non-Academic Self-Administration

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<b>since 2022</b>	Elected member of the workers' council at the MPI Bonn
<b>WS '21/'22</b>	Member of the recruitment committee at the (Virtual) European Job Market for the 6-year senior research fellow positions at the MPI Bonn
<b>since 2018</b>	Responsible for school contacts and activities at the MPI school day
<b>2018-2020</b>	Recruitment and management of the group's pool of research assistants
<b>2017-2018</b>	Setting up and management of the mobile lab (up to 90 tablets) at the MPI Bonn
<b>2015-2017</b>	Elected group-representative of the local group of fellows of the German Business Foundation in Goettingen-Kassel

## Selected Non-Academic Activities

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### **Mannheimer Versicherung AG**

*Student employee, department for reinsurance*

**Mannheim (Germany)**

*09/2013-04/2014*

### **Hannover Re SE**

*Intern, department for structured reinsurance*

**Hannover (Germany)**

*04/2013-06/2013*

### **Deloitte & Touche GmbH**

*Intern, quant team, financial risk solutions department*

**Duesseldorf (Germany)**

*02/2013-03/2013*

## Additional Qualifications & Competences

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### Languages.....

**German** (native), **English** (fluent, C1/C2), **Spanish** (fluent, B2/C1), **French** (fluent, B1/B2)

### Software and Programming.....

Python (mostly with oTree), C, PHP, MySQL, R, Stata & Mata, Git, Latex, QGIS, SurveyCTO

### Lab Management, Management of Experiments.....

Mobile lab setup, oTree server setup (lab-in-the-field and online experiments via Amazon mTurk integration)

## Personal Information

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Born August 1st, 1987 (Oberndorf am Neckar)

Married, one daughter (born May 9, 2022)