



**University
of Basel**

Faculty of
Business and Economics



Annual Report 2021

Summer School in Law, Business and Economic Policy



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Preface

2021 was again a challenging year - also for the Summer School of Law, Business and Economic Policy. However, we were able to live up to our mission and can look back to a successful year as the Annual Report 2021 will describe and explain.

The U.S Seminar in Business, Law and Economic Policy planned for February 2021 could not take place in the U.S. and had to be split into two parts: (1) presentation and discussion of the individual papers by students and faculty members of Georgetown University, New York University and University of Basel through Zoom, (2) U.S. trip and thus visits to the institutions in Washington and New York to be postponed until 2022. That was the plan at the beginning of 2021 given the state of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first part of the seminar using Zoom went very well as described in this report.

There was a considerable uncertainty whether the courses planned for summer 2021 could be taught in class or only via Zoom. We were not able to make a final decision until the end of April 2021, but of course guaranteed the delivery of the planned program during the officially scheduled time frame in July and August 2021. Given the regulatory and personal restrictions, it turned out that four courses were taught on campus in Basel, and five courses were offered remotely using Zoom. We were pleased that our colleagues Sandeep Dahiya, Jeffrey Macher, John Mayo and Catherine Tinsley were able to travel to Switzerland and thus deliver two courses on the Bachelor and two courses on the Master level here in Basel. It was also great to meet them in person again after a two-year-break. And the students enjoyed to have the chance to participate in a physical class room at the University of Basel.

The total number of students enrolled in class was about 20% below last year's enrollment. There are a number of reasons that could partly be responsible for this reduction. We believe that some students finally planned some holidays for summer 2021 as many expected the pandemic to slow down in summer. Other students got tired of virtual courses through Zoom, whereas others were not sure whether they will be able to participate on campus. In addition, we had to leave the students in doubt regarding the form of the course until shortly before the courses started. Finally, we also had the impression that some topics had to be adjusted given

the new developments in the economy and the interests of the students.

The Executive Committee of the Summer School carefully reviewed the curriculum and its fit for the Bachelor and Master programs of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel. This was also important because these programs were extended (e.g. by introducing a new Master in Business and Technology) and by adjusting the Majors within the existing master's program (e.g. with a new Major in International Business, Trade and the Environment). Taking into account the individual course enrollment, the Executive Committee agreed with the responsible colleagues to adjust the contents of some courses and to introduce new courses as well.

Thus, Prof. John Mayo suggested to offer the new course "Tech Companies: Business Strategies and New Global Policy Tensions". This course will take into account the current challenges the new "high-tech" or "platform" companies create. Prof. Bradford Jensen designed a new course called "Global Strategy for Multinational Companies" as a complement to my own course "Advanced International Trade and Business" in the general Master's program of the faculty. In addition, Prof. John Wargo adjusted his course to put more emphasis on companies' strategy in "The Rise of International Environmental Risks: Corporate and Government Strategies". With this changes on the master-level courses we plan to strengthen the courses in the area of "International Business".

In July 2021, we organized a Public Event on site in the WWZ Auditorium which was, however, held in a hybrid form with a good and very interested audience. The presentation was given by Prof. Jeffrey Macher (Georgetown University) on "Relaxed Antitrust Enforcement in the U.S.?", followed by a lively discussion about Prof. Macher's findings in his latest research. On August 20, we held an Economic Policy Conference in memoriam of Prof. Silvio Borner with a large, but limited audience (due to COVID-19 regulations) in the big lecture hall of the Center for Teaching and Research (ZLF) at the University of Basel. It was a very dignified event and also gave credit to Silvio Borner's pioneering work which laid the foundation to today's Summer School of Law, Business and Economic Policy.

Let me thank the members of the Executive Committee, my colleagues from the U.S. teaching in the Summer School program as well as our students in the courses and seminar for their support, flexibility and commitment during a difficult, pandemic-driven year. Most importantly, I would like to thank our sponsors, Mrs. C. Zaeslin, Dr. H.-H. Zaeslin and Dr. R. Maag for their loyal and constant support, also during an uncertain time. I sincerely hope that 2022 will allow us to go back to a normal environment with an updated and polished program of our traditional Summer School of Law, Business and Economic Policy!

Rolf Weder
Chairman of the Executive Committee



Organization

Summer School Office

Esther Ziegler successfully led the Summer School office and was supported during the summer months by master student Laura Schwab.

Advisory Board

The advisory board acts as a consultant and supervisor to the Executive Committee. It consists of the following members:



Esther Ziegler
Program Administrator



Prof. John Mayo
Professor of Economics, Business and Public Policy
(McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University)



Prof. Rolf Weder
Professor of International Trade and European Integration
Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics (University of Basel)
Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Geoffrey B. Miller
Professor of Law
(New York University School of Law)

Executive Committee

The committee supports and supervises the Summer School, proposes the choice of visiting professors and courses to the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel and is responsible for the strategic development of the program. It consists of the following members:



Prof. Sandeep Dahiya
Professor of Finance
(McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University)



Prof. Catherine Sharkey
Professor of Law
(New York University School of Law)



Prof. Jeffrey Macher
Professor of Strategy, Economics and Policy
(McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University)



Prof. Alois Stutzer
Professor of Political Economics
(University of Basel)



Prof. Georg Nöldeke
Professor of Microeconomic Theory
(University of Basel)



Prof. Rolf Weder
Professor of International Trade and European Integration
Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics (University of Basel)
Chairman of the Executive Committee

Courses 2021

An Overview

Bachelor

Course	Professor	Students
Financing New Ventures	Sandeep Dahiya (GTU)	15
Fundamentals of Law and Economics	Geoffrey Miller (NYU)	12
The Artificial Intelligence Economy, Business, Governance and Society in the Age of Algorithms	Stephen Weymouth (GTU)	19
Negotiations	Catherine Tinsley (GTU)	21
Total Bachelor Students		67

Master

Course	Professor	Students
Competitive Strategy	Jeffrey Macher (GTU)	20
Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions	Yakov Amihud (NYU)	11
Environmental Law and Public Policy, Risk and Regulation	John Wargo (Yale)	23
FinTech, Digital Currency and Blockchains	David Yermack (NYU)	25
Business Strategy and Competition Policy	John Mayo (GTU)	8
Total Master Students		87

Teaching on Campus in Times of COVID-19

by Prof. Sandeep Dahiya

It was both with hope and anxiety that I felt when my plane landed at EuroAirport Basel at the end of June 2021. The uncertainty about travel regulations were finally behind me and after missing the 2020 Summer School in person, I was looking forward to teaching the undergraduates of the Summer School of Law, Business and Economic Policy.

However, unlike other years I did not know what was in store this year. The ubiquitous mask-wearing requirements meant that I could not simply revert to the teaching convention of prior years. The students had to sit pretty far apart and it made it difficult to generate small-group discussions. I was also not prepared for how keen the students were to interact – they had not been on campus for nearly 14 months!

I took a radical step in my first session: We all moved to the outside courtyard for 30 minutes so that we could take off our masks and have an animated discussion about entrepreneurship. This helped the students to get to know each other a bit better and I felt that many of them were socializing during the class breaks. Once the course gathered speed, we became more comfortable with the physical separation as well as mask-wearing. Over all, I thought the teaching went quite well and the students were delighted to be back in the class room. I am looking forward to coming back in 2022.



Bachelor Courses

Financing New Ventures

by Prof. Sandeep Dahiya

Every year thousands of new ventures are started and a nearly equal number of existing businesses are closed down. Almost all of these ventures are single founder/employee type of ventures where the founder has neither the desire nor the possibility of creating a significantly large business organization. A small fraction of such ventures, however, hold the promise to grow into large businesses. This course focuses heavily on such promising ventures or “startups”. The reason for this focus is self- - business that are unlikely to grow fast have little or limited need for external financing-making such ventures somewhat irrelevant for a course titled Financing New Ventures. It is designed to illustrate challenges faced by an entrepreneur in financing and growing a new firm. Exploiting a promising opportunity frequently requires an entrepreneur to marshal scarce resources, especially external capital. The course focuses almost exclusively on issues relevant to the financing of entrepreneurial ventures. It acknowledges that marshalling talent, customers, regulators and other stakeholders is equally and at times even more important than raising financing in many entrepreneurial ventures. However, given that this is a “Finance” course, the primary focus is on challenges faced by entrepreneurs in securing adequate capital to launch and to grow their ventures.

A significant amount of time is devoted to understand the role of Venture Capital (and to a lesser degree on Angel Investors) in financing new start-ups. The course requires and reinforces the skills needed to analyze a business with a strong emphasis on financing deal terms and valuation techniques. The course concludes by examining the harvesting of entrepreneurial ventures whereby the entrepreneur and the financiers realize the returns for their effort. The course uses a number of case studies based on startups or young firms

Fundamentals of Law and Economics

by Prof. Geoffrey Miller

This course deals with the fundamental principles of Law and Economics - the discipline of using economic methods to understand legal rules and practices. After investigating the implications of the Coase Theorem, which directs attention to the importance of transactions costs

in the analysis of legal issues, the class turns to applied issues in areas such as the law of automobile accidents, pollution, rules governing parties in civil law- suits, and the analysis of criminal law and criminal punishments. The basic principles will be explored with numerical illustrations, examples drawn from Swiss culture, and detailed analysis of judicial opinions from the United States and other countries.

The Artificial Intelligence Economy: Business, Governance, and Society in the Age of Algorithms

by Prof. Stephen Weymouth

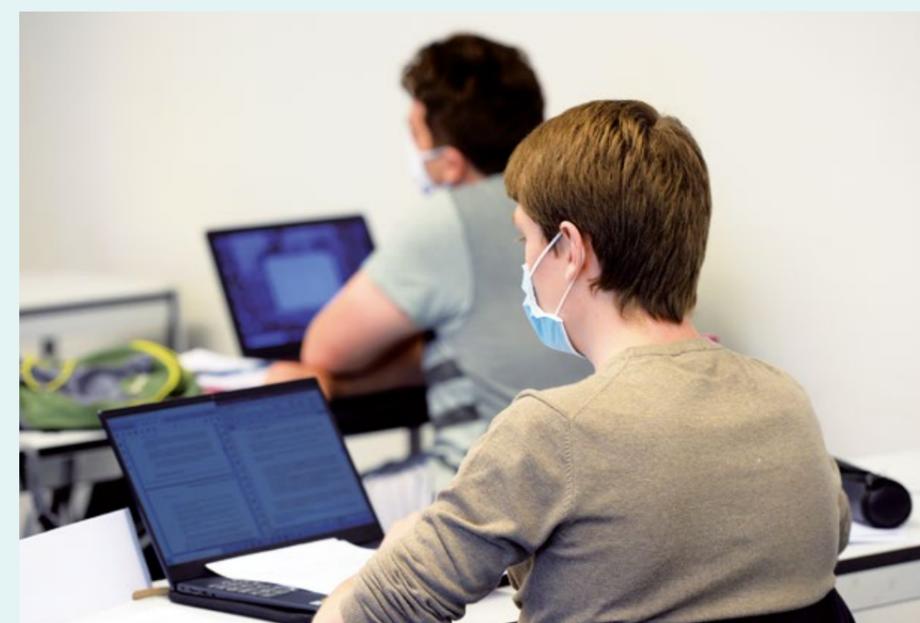
The world is entering an age of transformational technologies driven by artificial intelligence (AI). Advances in computer science and robotics create machines that can drive, diagnose, build, and “think”. AI promises new conveniences, more efficient production, and material and cultural bounty. AI will also fundamentally change manufacturing processes and services delivery, potentially eliminating jobs and increasing inequality. Unless properly managed, the AI economy may create deep economic and political conflict between its beneficiaries and those left behind. Left unchecked, these divisions threaten crises to governance, global capitalism, and geopolitics. This course surveys the AI economy and its potential implications for firms, governments, and society. Students assess the emerging business tools and strategies relying on machine learning and algorithms. Recent developments in the economics of AI is reviewed, with particular focus on which jobs AI will likely replace and the reasons why. Differences in AI deployment across countries and regions, and their implications for international economic relations between the US, China, and the EU are explored. The course concludes with an exploration of the seismic political shocks that may arise from AI-induced unemployment and widening inequality. Finally, policy proposals to forestall these threats to democratic governance are evaluate.

Negotiations

by Prof. Catherine Tinsley

Negotiation is central to business, whether one plans on working in marketing, on Wall Street as a consultant, for government, not-for-profit, or for yourself. This class teaches the basic tenets of successful negotiation, and

helps students gain an understanding of the strategies and tactics that work best. This course is designed to complement the technical and diagnostic skills learned in other courses at the university. Although business requires a broad array of analytical skills in marketing, management, finance, accounting, and operations, these skills only go so far. As a complement, managers need a broad array of negotiation skills in order to get their proposals accepted and implemented. In other words, this course not only helps students to get a job, but also to succeed in it. The course develops participants’ negotiation skills via experience. A considerable amount of time is used for practicing techniques so that the participants feel comfortable using them.



Master Courses

Business Strategy and Competition Policy

by Prof. John Mayo

At a very general level, students gain an enhanced understanding of when markets work and when markets fail. This deeper understanding of markets, in turn, provides the relevant benchmark against which to judge appropriate and inappropriate government policies toward business.

Second, a more specific set of benefits flow from a detailed study of competition and regulatory policies. These policies shape industry structure and, therefore, strategy in many industries. Specific examples include recent and lively debates in the United States and around the world regarding mergers and monopolization. Third, the specific cases discussed will focus on active and visible “new economy - Big Tech” industries and cutting edge debates regarding business practices and policies. An improved exposure to these industries enriches and broadens business knowledge. Finally, students engage in an immersive “trial” in which a firm is accused of violating U.S. antitrust law. Students assume the role of lawyers, economists and business experts throughout the trial. This is a unique, fun and massively educational exercise.

Competitive Strategy

by Prof. Jeffrey Macher

Competitive Strategy is concerned with managing the development and competitive position of the business enterprise in order to ensure its survival and long-term success. Every firm must create and sustain a competitive advantage if it is to survive and prosper. This course provides frameworks, tools and concepts to help students analyze and understand the creation and sustainability of competitive advantage. Political, economic, demographic and social environments differ and evolve across industries. Industries differ in the extent to which they provide opportunities for sustained profitability. Industries also evolve over time, providing firms with continuously changing opportunities and threats. While industry analysis provides firms insights into what they must do to succeed, it does not shed much light on what they can do. Resource and capability analysis provides an insight into firms’ strengths and weaknesses (as they relate to the external environment). An understanding of internal strengths enables firms to fully exploit and build

their capabilities to compete successfully, while an understanding of internal weaknesses suggests recommendations for improvement.

Every firm seeks to obtain a unique and sustainable competitive position through an appropriate configuration of its assets and products in relation to the external environment in order to generate superior value for its customers. The course examines distinct business strategies with particular emphasis around competitive positioning, low-cost and differentiation, and vertical integration.

Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions

by Prof. Yakov Amihud

This course presents the theories and empirical evidence on corporate control transactions, the process of evaluating acquisition targets and its application in practice. Findings on the reaction of stock prices to information on control transactions are used to analyze the effects of various policy options in such transactions. Strategies of acquisition are studied as well as defensive measures against them, their purpose and their consequences. The class combines lecture material, quantitative and qualitative analyses and discussions of relevant news. There is an emphasis on fundamental concepts of valuation and other areas of corporate finance related to Mergers & Acquisitions.

Environmental Law and Public Policy.

Risk and Regulation

by Prof. John Wargo

The master course explores key trends and challenges in the global food sector related to the environment, human health, and profitability. Students explore corporate innovation, government regulation, and certification programs. Comparisons are made when possible among Swiss, EU, the US, as well as Asian laws and corporate policies. Students examine corporate strategies in the food sector, differing legal standards among nations, changing consumer preferences, public subsidies, trade barriers, vertical integration of supply chains, branding trends, and organic certification standards. Students learn to evaluate the effectiveness of environmental law and policy, to judge the quality and uncertainty of scientific evidence used to claim that a risk is either significant,

or not worth worrying about. Each topic explores how environmental and health risks are assessed, how legal and regulatory standards, alternative government and corporate policies are implemented, and practices that might reduce negative externalities.

FinTech, Blockchain and Digital Currency

by Prof. David Yermack

This course covers digital currencies, blockchains, and related topics in the FinTech area, perhaps the most significant innovation in the financial world since the advent of double-entry bookkeeping centuries ago. The technology appears to represent an existential challenge for major parts of the finance industry. It is now commonly suggested by experts such as McKinsey that commercial banks and stock exchanges may no longer exist, or may become much smaller, within the next 10 to 20 years, with increasing volumes of payments and exchange taking place on a peer-to-peer basis.

The course begins with a study of the nature of money and legacy payment and banking systems. Students then study the emergence of stateless, cloud-based digital currency systems since 2009. Further lectures will explore threats that blockchain technology poses to incumbent firms and their resulting attempts to co-opt the technology into existing business models. Related issues are surveyed including hacking, “smart contracts,” governance, and emerging regulation.



Evaluation Results

In order to constantly improve our quality management and strengthen the high standard of this program, the Summer School conducts evaluations at the end of each course. Within this procedure, all students complete evaluation forms that provide valuable information for improvement. The evaluations are anonymous. Moreover, the evaluation procedure is an essential monitoring device in order to guarantee that the courses fulfill the high requirements set by all the participants of the program.

All the courses were regarded as highly interesting. The extra reading and studying required was considered to be justified. The degree of difficulty is, of course, never the same for all students. Overall, it is assessed as adequate. This is also reflected in the high proportion of students who passed the exams. Students generally like the interactive method of teaching typically found in U.S. Business Schools.

We congratulate our colleagues for this excellent feedback from their students. It demonstrates the commitment and constant effort you all put into your courses.

General evaluation and learning success	2021	2020
Overall, the course was:	5.7	5.5
Overall, my learning success was:	5.4	5.2
I would recommend the course to other students.	5.6	5.4

Evaluation of the lecturers	2021	2020
The lecturer structures the course well and identifies the objectives clearly.	5.6	5.3
The lecturer communicates the teaching material clearly.	5.7	5.5
The lecturer responds thoroughly to students' questions.	5.8	5.8
The lecturer is committed.	5.9	5.8

Scale: 1 = I do not agree at all – 6 = I agree fully; n.a. = not applicable

Student Statements

“Excellent teaching, high information level, good combination between theory and actual cases.”

“Very enthusiastic instructor.
Interesting and stimulating topics.”

“The workload was very high, but it was the greatest opportunity at the University of Basel!”

“Very refreshing way of teaching. Extremely interactive and interesting. One of the best courses I have visited so far.”

“It was my best course at Uni Basel so far!”

Visiting Professors



Prof. Yakov Amihud

Professor of Entrepreneurial Finance
Stern School of Business,
New York University

Course taught in 2021:
Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions

Yakov Amihud is the Ira Rennert Professor of Entrepreneurial Finance at the Stern School of Business, New York University. His research includes the evaluation of corporate financial policies, mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, objectives of corporate managers, dividend policy, and law and finance. In 1969 Amihud earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from the Hebrew University. In 1973 he graduated with a master's degree in business administration from New York University, where he also completed his Ph.D. in Economics and Quantitative Analysis in 1975.

He teaches courses on corporate finance and mergers & acquisitions. His research interests focus on securities markets microstructure and corporate finance. The focus of his research is the effects of liquidity of assets on their returns and values, and the design and evaluation of securities markets' trading methods. On these topics, Prof. Amihud has done consulting work for the NYSE, AMEX, CBOE, CBOT, and other securities markets. He has published more than seventy research articles in professional journals and in books. He edited and co-edited five books on topics such as LBOs, bank M&As, international finance, and securities market design.



Prof. Sandeep Dahiya

Associate Professor of Finance
McDonough School of Business,
Georgetown University

Course taught in 2021:
Financing New Ventures

Professor Dahiya has been on the faculty of the McDonough School of Business since 1999. He has published in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Journal of Corporate Finance* and *Financial Markets, Institutions & Instruments*. He received his Ph.D. in Finance from New York University.

Dahiya is also a Faculty Associate of the Capital Markets Research Center. He spent two years working in the Corporate Finance and Strategy practice of McKinsey & Company, a leading strategy consulting firm. He worked with CEOs and CFOs of Fortune 500 firms in Healthcare, Financial Services and Chemical industries focusing on Valuation, Mergers & Acquisitions, Capital Markets and Risk Management issues. He has also consulted for leading law firms on corporate finance issues.

Before getting his Ph.D., he spent three years with ICICI Bank, a large financial institution in India. His primary responsibilities included managing lending relationships with leading Indian corporations and arranging project finance for textile and energy sector companies.



Prof. Jeffrey T. Macher

Professor of Strategy, Economics and Policy,
McDonough School of Business,
Georgetown University

Course taught in 2021:
Competitive Strategy

Jeffrey T. Macher is a professor at the McDonough School of Business and academic director of Georgetown's Center for Business and Public Policy. He teaches full-time, evening and executive MBA and executive education courses in microeconomics, competitive strategy, and the management of technology and innovation. Macher received his undergraduate degree in computer engineering from the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan; his MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College; and his Ph.D. from the Walter A. Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to Georgetown University, Professor Macher worked for Braxton Associate (a strategy consulting firm now part of Deloitte Consulting), IBM and Motorola. He is on the editorial boards of *Production and Operations Management Journal* and *Strategic Management Journal*, and a reviewer for several academic journals. He is also a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



Prof. John Mayo

Professor of Economics, Business and Public Policy
McDonough School of Business,
Georgetown University

Course taught in 2021:
Business Strategy and Competition Policy

John W. Mayo is a professor at the McDonough School of Business. His research interests lie in the areas of industrial organization, regulation and antitrust, and, more generally, the application of microeconomics to public policy. He has published over 60 articles in economics, law and public policy journals including the *RAND Journal of Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Industrial Economics*, and the *Journal of Regulatory Economics*. He is also the author of numerous book chapters and monographs, and is the coauthor of a comprehensive text, "Government and Business: The Economics of Antitrust and Regulation." Professor Mayo has held a number of senior administrative positions at Georgetown including a term as the Dean of the McDonough School of Business from 2002–2004. He has served as a visiting scholar at both UC Berkeley and Stanford University. Additionally, he has been the Chief Economist, U.S. Senate Small Business Committee (Democratic Staff) and has served as an advisor and consultant to both public and private agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, AT&T, MCI, Sprint, Verizon, the Tennessee Valley Authority and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Mayo has participated in a number of regulatory and antitrust proceedings and has testified before both federal and state legislative and regulatory bodies on a number of matters, including monopolization, price fixing, mergers, and regulatory policy.

His research and or interviews have appeared in the popular press, including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



Prof. Geoffrey P. Miller

Professor of Law,
School of Law,
New York University

Course taught in 2021:
Fundamentals of Law and Economics

Professor Miller is author and editor of a dozen books and more than 200 research papers on topics in business law, compliance and risk management, financial institutions, securities law, the legal profession, ancient law, and legal theory. He received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1973 and his JD from Columbia Law School in 1978, where he was editor-in-chief of the Columbia Law Review. Miller clerked for Judge Carl McGowan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and Justice Byron White of the U.S. Supreme Court. After two years as an attorney adviser at the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice and one year with a Washington, DC, law firm, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School in 1983, where he served as associate dean, director of the Program in Law and Economics, and editor of the Journal of Legal Studies. In 1995, he joined the NYU School of Law. Miller has been a visiting professor and visiting scholar at universities and facilities of higher learning around the world. He is a founder of the Society for Empirical Legal Studies, director of the NYU Law Center for Financial Institutions, co-director of the Center for Civil Justice, and co-director of the NYU Law Program on Corporate Compliance and Enforcement. He serves on the board of directors, chairs the audit committee, and is a member of the compensation and risk committees of State Farm Bank. Miller is a 2011 inductee into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Prof. Catherine Tinsley

Professor of Management,
McDonough School of Business,
Georgetown University

Courses taught in 2021:
Negotiations

Catherine Tinsley is a professor at the McDonough School of Business, executive director of the Georgetown University Women's Leadership Institute, academic director of Georgetown McDonough's Executive Master's in Leadership program, and a senior policy scholar at the Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy. She received her master's and Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, and a Bachelor in Anthropology from Bryn Mawr College. Tinsley is an expert on gender intelligent leadership, gender parity and workforce development, negotiations, and decision making. In 2015, she participated in The World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos (Switzerland). In 2012 and 2013, she partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to study a decade of gender in the C-suite.

Prof. Tinsley has done field research analyzing the implications of various corporate policies and structures for women's advancement. Tinsley also has collaborated with the White House and U.S. State Department to execute a womantowoman mentorship summit. She has published more than 50 scientific articles and book chapters. She has won various academic rewards for her research. In addition to her research on gender dynamics in organizations, she studies how factors such as culture, reputations, and gender influence negotiation and conflict resolution. She also studies how people make decisions under risk, applying decision analytic frameworks to understand organizational disasters, individual and expert responses to natural disasters (such as hurricanes) and man-made disasters (terrorist attacks).



Prof. John Wargo

Professor of Environmental Health and Political Science
Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Course taught in 2021:
Environmental Law and Public Policy.
Risk and Regulation

John Wargo is professor at Yale University, chair of the Yale College Environmental and a fellow of Branford College. Wargo's research focuses on understanding threats to human health posed by environmental hazards. He has concentrated on the susceptibility of children and pregnant women, and has evaluated the effectiveness of law in reducing environmental threats to human health. He has written about human exposures to pesticides, vehicle emissions, toxins in foods, plastics, flame-retardants, metals, and chemicals in built environments. Professor Wargo has lectured extensively on the limits and potential of environmental law, with a focus on human health. He has participated in several National Academy of Sciences committees, analyzing children's exposure to toxic substances. He also has testified before both Senate and House Committees, and been an advisor to the White House, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture organization, the EPA, USDA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on environmental threats to children's health. Wargo has participated in the design of federal and state laws and regulations intended to reduce human exposures to air pollution, pesticides, plastics, mercury, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Professor Wargo holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1974 he received a Master of Landscape in Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, followed by a Master of Philosophy in 1982, and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1984 – both from Yale University.



Prof. Stephen Weymouth

Associate Professor of International Political Economy
McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Course taught in 2021:
The Artificial Intelligence Economy: Business,
Governance, and Society in the Age of Algorithms

Stephen Weymouth is an Associate Professor and the Marano Faculty Fellow at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. He is a faculty affiliate of the Department of Government, and a senior policy scholar at the Center for Business and Public Policy. In 1999, Prof. Weymouth graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Arizona State University. In 2005, he earned a MA in Latin American Studies, followed by a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Affairs - both from the University of California, San Diego.

His research interest focuses on globalization backlash, trade policy, exchange rate politics, and distributional consequences of technological change.



Prof. David L. Yermack

Professor of Finance and Business Transformation Stern School of Business, New York University

Course taught in 2021:
FinTech, Digital Currency and Blockchains

David L. Yermack is a professor at the Stern School of Business. He also serves as the chairman of the Finance Department and director of the NYU Pollack Center for Law and Business. Professor Yermack teaches joint MBA-Law School courses in Restructuring Firms & Industries and Bitcoin & Cryptocurrencies, as well as Ph.D. research courses in corporate governance, executive compensation, distress and restructuring. He has been with NYU Stern since 1994. His primary research areas include boards of directors, executive compensation, and corporate finance. Professor Yermack has published more than 25 articles in leading academic journals in Finance, Accounting, Economics, and Law. He is a faculty research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and has been a visiting scholar at the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank. Yermack received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics (1985), Master of Business Administration (1991), Juris Doctor (1991), Master of Arts in Business Economics (1993), and Doctor of Philosophy in Business Economics (1994) all from Harvard University.

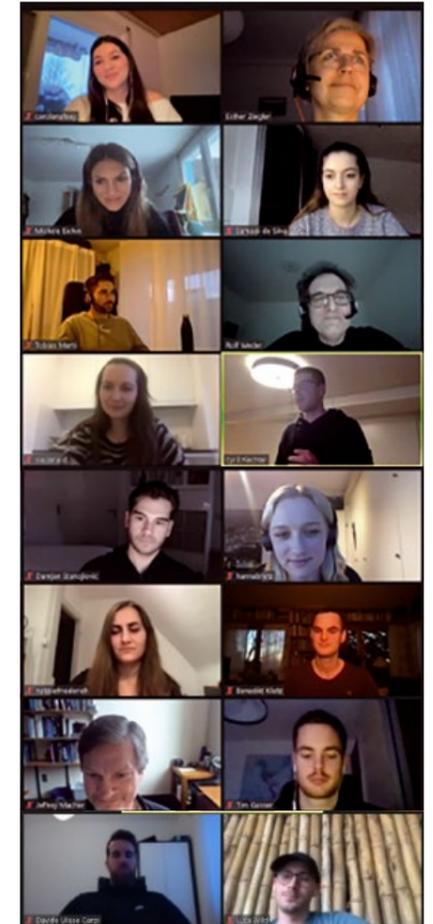
U.S. Master Seminar

Review of a Zoom-seminar in February 2021

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 15 students registered in summer 2020 for the U.S. Master Seminar in Law, Business and Economic Policy – offered jointly by Prof. Jeffrey Macher (Georgetown University) and Prof. Rolf Weder (University of Basel).

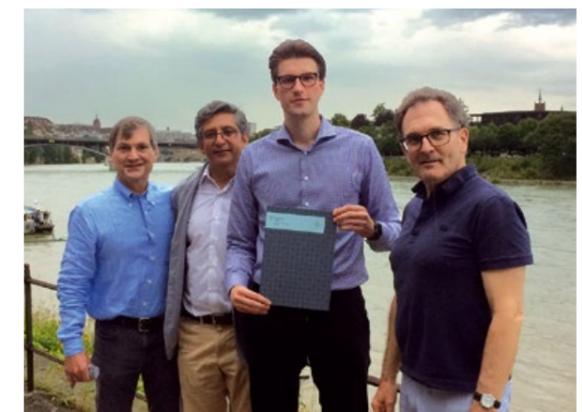
For a long time, we were optimistic that the pandemic and the associated entry restrictions would certainly be lifted by February 2021 at the latest. Unfortunately, this expectation proved to be a fallacy. In order to give students the opportunity to present their seminar work and to be able to earn the credits necessary for completing their master’s degree, we decided to “downsize” the seminar and offer a Zoom-seminar in February 2021. During the Zoom meetings students presented their seminar papers followed by a discussion. These meetings were also attended by faculty from Georgetown University and New York University.

At the same time, we invited all students to attend next year’s seminar. A promise that we have not yet been able to keep, as the seminar in February 2022 could also be conducted only through Zoom. However, it appears that an alternative option for both seminar groups will take place from August 29th to September 2nd, 2022 as part of the Summer School Anniversary – if everything goes as planned.



Award for Best Performance

The 2021 Award for the best performance in the U.S. Master Seminar in Law, Business and Economic Policy was given to Mr. Cyril Fiechter for his research paper on "Stock Market Value of Tesla Greater than the Value of BMW, Daimler, and VW Combined: An Attempted Explanation" and to Mr. Benedikt Klotz for his research paper on "To Kill or to Drill? The Impact of Evolving Bankruptcy Laws on Distressed Firms in the United States and Europe".



From left to right: Prof. Jeffrey Macher, Prof. Sandeep Dahiya (both Georgetown University), Prof. Rolf Weder (University of Basel) and Cyril Fiechter (award winner) in July 2021. Unfortunately, Benedikt Klotz (2nd award winner, see image above, right column, third from below) was not able to join the group for the dinner invitation.

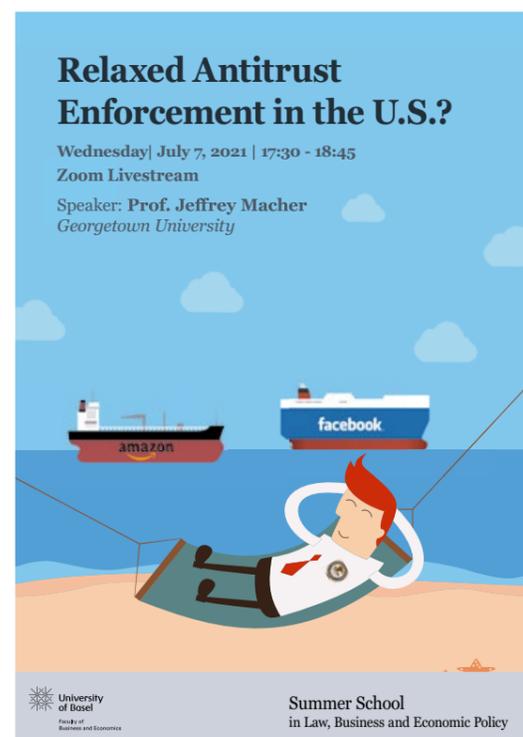
Public Event

The Public Event of 2021, held at the WWZ-Auditorium on July 7, 2021, challenged the widely held belief that U.S. antitrust enforcement has been relaxed over the last years. Prof. Jeffrey Macher was welcomed to discuss this question based on his research with his colleague Prof. Mayo (both Georgetown University). The event took place in a hybrid format whereby Prof. Macher was presenting at the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel. The audience could participate either live or via Zoom. Prof. Macher's co-author (John Mayo) answered questions through Zoom.

Prof. Macher started with a historical and procedural outline of the U.S. antitrust policy and enforcement. Agencies examining merging parties typically conclude either to allow the merger, to reach a settlement deal, or to file suit. In contrast to the media expressing that antitrust enforcement in the U.S. has become relaxed, Prof. Macher and his research partner argued the reverse. In fact, the number of merger challenges (merger enforcements) and merger enforcement intensity has increased over the past 40 years. The falling number of litigated mergers (mergers going through full trial) and the increasing agency-win rate over time support that also the court standard has become more stringent. Thus, merging firms prefer to settle instead of proceeding to full trial and facing a more stringent judiciary – which would imply fewer winning chances.

Thus, the common belief of relaxed U.S. antitrust agencies in enforcement as well as in judiciary trial could not be justified by Prof. Macher and his research partner. According to Prof. Macher, it is of great importance to conduct thorough data analysis about this matter instead of speculating. The event was rounded off by a discussion and aperitif at the faculty. Colleagues from other universities and representatives from the Swiss Competition Commission also participated.

Text based on a contribution by Alisha Amrein.



Economic Policy Conference in memoriam of Prof. Silvio Borner

The conference took place in the full lecture hall of the Center for Teaching and Research (ZLF) on August 20, 2021. Among the guests were numerous former colleagues, students and doctoral students as well as members of Silvio Borner's family.

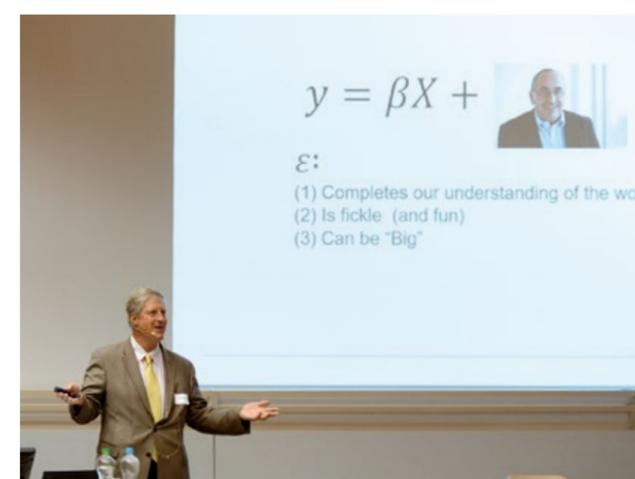
The conference was opened by a welcoming speech of Rector, Prof. Andrea Schenker-Wicki, in which she honored Silvio Borner's great public commitment as well as his dedication to the University of Basel. Prof. Rolf Weder then looked back on Silvio Borner's life's work, emphasizing his importance as a scientist and as a critical and committed thinker in the public debate. He was drawn to the connection between science and economic policy from the very beginning of his scientific research. Over the years, however, he increasingly doubted whether economists as a whole had much impact. Silvio Borner also concluded that the demand for political correctness may increasingly limit free scientific research. These topics were at the core of the conference and were discussed in depth during a presentation by Dr. Peter A. Fischer, Chief Economist of the Neue Züricher Zeitung, and in the two subsequent panels with representatives from business, politics and academia - many of them former doctoral students of Silvio Borner.

After the controversial debates, Prof. Rolf Weder directed the attention of the audience to the Summer School in Law, Business and Economic Policy whose foundation is largely due to the commitment by Prof. Silvio Borner and the support by Dr. H-H. Zaeslin at the turn to the new millennium. During a field trip to various top U.S. universities, Borner tried to convince numerous colleagues to start a cooperation - without success. During his very last stop, he met with the Dean of the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, Prof. John Mayo. It was in this conversation at the time that the breakthrough was made and the foundation for the success story was placed.

In a short video, Summer School alumni shared their positive memories with the audience. Prof. Geoffrey Miller of New York University, who like Prof. John Mayo is a member of the Summer School Advisory Board, joined the conference by Zoom to the surprise of the audience. He emphasized the importance of combining "Law" and "Economics" as a basis for better economic policy advice. Prof. John Mayo gave a short speech in honor of Silvio Borner. In an economic manner, he presented to the audience a well-known regression equation: $Y = \beta X + \varepsilon$. In economics, one would always try to explain a real phenomenon (Y) with the measurable variable X, which is done by estimating the parameter β . But there would always be a residual term ε , partly responsible for Y. X alone could never fully explain reality. The residual term ε would represent the inexplicable, was volatile, and could be "large." His conclusion: Silvio Borner has been something like the ε . He helped to complete our understanding of the world and he achieved a lot (ε can be big), among other things by the creation of the Summer School.

At the end, Prof. Rolf Weder used a medley of video extracts from interviews given by Prof. Borner in the Swiss news over his career to conclude and show Silvio Borner's entertaining and at the same time scientifically original side. Dear thanks by Silvio's wife, Vreni Borner, and an Apéro Riche at the hotel Teufelhof concluded this truly memorable event in memoriam of Silvio Borner.

Text based on a contribution by Riccardo Bentele.



Zaeslin Alumni Club (ZAC)

The Zaeslin Alumni Club (ZAC) is the Alumni Club of the Zaeslin Program. The ZAC embraces the most qualified participants of the Zaeslin Program, all of which had the honor to receive a Zaeslin scholarship for a stay at either Georgetown University or New York University (NYU). Besides, the Club is open for successful alumni of the Summer School in Law, Business & Economic Policy. According to the club motto «Audiatur et altera pars» the ZAC promotes the interdisciplinary and international exchange between lawyers and economists.

Our goal is to prolong the learning and social experience of the Zaeslin Program into a life-long experience. Therefore, we organize, on a regular basis, events in the U.S. as well as in Switzerland.

Contact:

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www.zaeslin-alumni-club.ch

Impressum

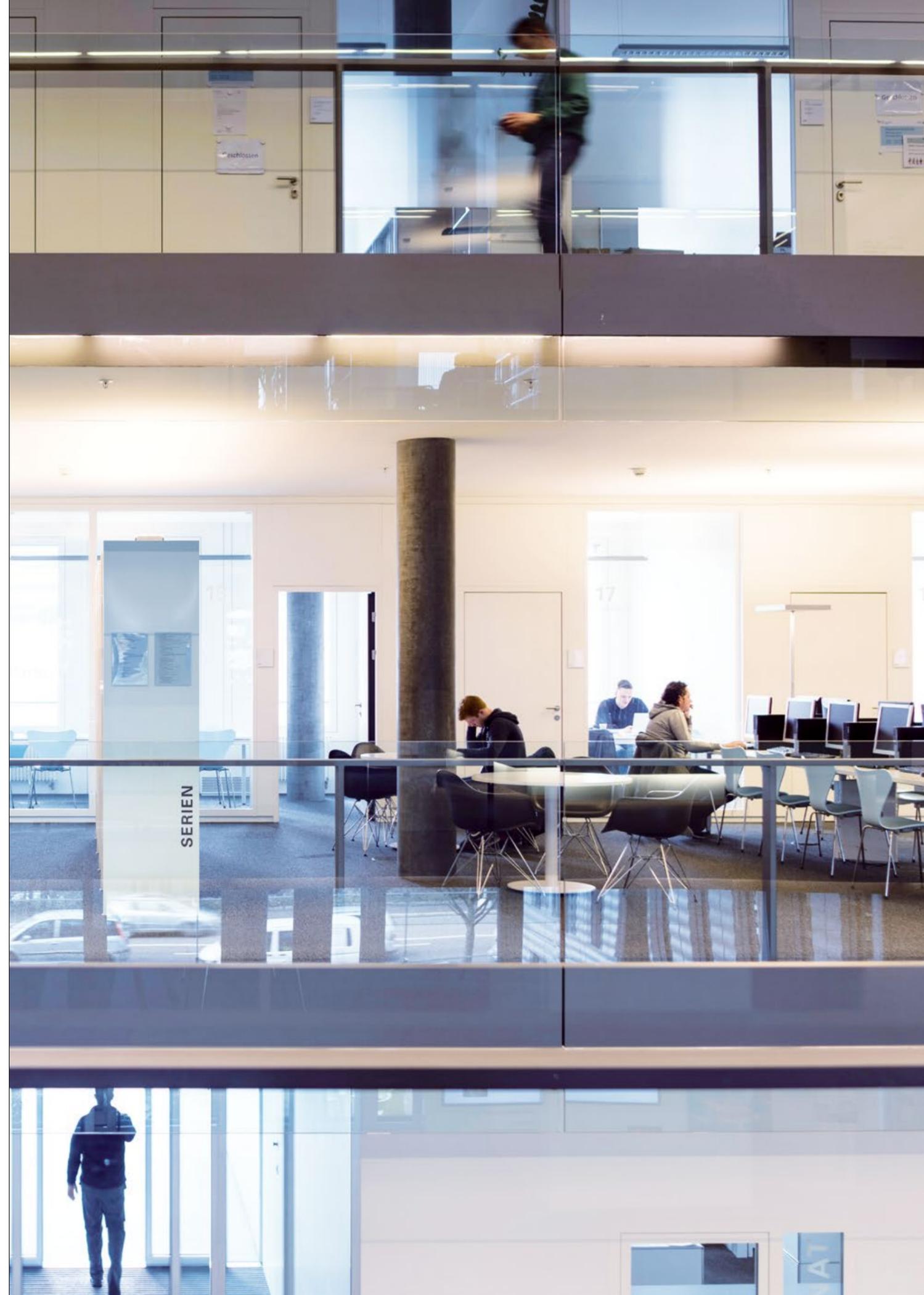
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