Roman Eric Sieler

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Fields: Environmental & Development Economics (primary); Health, Applied Econometrics (secondary)

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Basel. 2021–2025
Advisor: Beat Hintermann. Grade: *Summa Cum Laude*, defended December 2025.
Research stays: Harvard University (Host: C. Golden, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, 2025), University of California, Santa Barbara (Host: T. Carleton, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, 2024), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Host: J. Montero, Instituto de Economía, 2022)

M.Sc. in Economic Development and Growth, Lund University, Sweden (double degree). 2019–2020
GPA: A−. Thesis: *The Strange Case of Climate Policy and Economic Development: An Analysis of the Porter Hypothesis in China's ETS Pilots* (Grade: A)

M.Sc. in Economic Development and Growth, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain. 2018–2019
GPA: 9.22/10 (top 1%). Thesis: *Do Coral Reefs Matter? Effects of Climate-Induced Coral Bleaching on the Biological Standard of Living in Indonesia* (Grade: Honors, *Matrícula de Honor*)

B.Sc. in International Economics and American Studies 2014–2018
University of Tübingen, Germany. GPA: 1.4 (excellent). Exchange at Tufts University, USA (2016–2017)

Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Basel, Switzerland 2026–present
Research Assistant and Lecturer, University of Basel, Switzerland 2021–2025

Job Market Paper

Coral Bleaching Reduces Child Growth Through Nutritional Pathways
Under review at Nature Climate Change

Climate change is degrading the ecosystems people rely on, and coral bleaching is among its first large-scale, observable impacts. Using a novel satellite-derived, machine-learning bleaching dataset and long-run heat stress as an instrument, I show that climate-driven bleaching in East Africa reduces fish catch by about 26% of the mean and household fresh fish consumption by up to 21%, and that children exposed in utero or in their first two years are significantly shorter for their age, indicating malnutrition. Households do not appear to adapt.

Working Papers

Bad for Business? The Impact of Air Quality on Firm Outcomes in Germany
with Beat Hintermann and Corrado Di Maria (University of East Anglia)

Product Switching under the European Emission Trading Scheme
with Francisco J. André (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Corrado Di Maria, and Beat Hintermann

Work in Progress

A Global Satellite-Derived Coral Bleaching Dataset, 2016–2025
data paper in preparation; dataset complete

Global Analysis of Coral Bleaching Impacts on Fisheries
with Christopher Golden (Harvard University) and Jessica Zamborain-Mason (KAUST), early stage

The Impact of Coral Bleaching on Micronutrients in East African Fisheries
with Bryan Galligan (Harvard University)

Coral Bleaching and Human–Wildlife Conflict: Crocodile Attacks
with Francesco Cenerini (National Taiwan University)

What Drives Civil Society Influence in Global Climate Negotiations?
with Paula Castro Pareja (ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences)

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Swiss National Science Foundation Grant, *Coral Bleaching in East Africa: Consequences and Adaptations*, CHF 100,425 (co-developed with Beat Hintermann) 2025
Supporters' Association of the Faculty of Business and Economics Grant, *Coral Bleaching, Micronutrients, and Economic Development*, ca. CHF 38.000 (co-developed with Beat Hintermann) 2025
Nikolaus and Bertha Burckhardt-Bürgin Foundation Short-Term Travel Grant, CHF 4,700 2025
Doc.Mobility Fellowship, University of Basel (7–8 university-wide recipients per term), CHF 36,750 2024
MEDEG Research Thesis Excellence Series, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid 2019
Heinrich Böll Foundation Scholarship (undergraduate and graduate studies) 2016–2020

Teaching

University of Basel

- Fundamentals of Public Economics (B.A.), co-lecturer and teaching assistant 2022–2026
  Evaluation (2022): mean ratings 5.4–5.8/6.0 on organization, clarity, and engagement
- International Political Economy of Energy and Climate Policy (B.A.), invited lecturer 2025
- Scientific Work II (B.A.), teaching assistant 2025
- Supervision of 11 B.A. and M.A. theses in Public and Environmental Economics (7 B.A., 4 M.A.) 2022–2026

Conference Presentations

2026

16th International Coral Reef Symposium (Auckland); World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (Lisbon); German Development Economics Conference / 1st Conference of the European Development Economics Group (Kiel); Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (St. Gallen); Monte Verità Conference on Sustainable Resource Use and Economic Dynamics (Ascona); 14th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment; Sixth Workshop on Environmental Economic Analyses Using AFiD (Mannheim)

2025

30th Annual EAERE Conference (Bergen); 13th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment

2024

AERE Summer Conference (Washington, DC); Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop in Sustainable Development (Columbia University)

2023

28th Annual EAERE Conference (Limassol); 11th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment

Seminars and Talks

*invited

2025

Penn State, Institute of Energy and the Environment*; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (host: Christopher Golden); Georgetown University (host: Arik Levinson)*; New York University, U.S. Seminar in Business, Law and Economic Policy; University of Basel (Economics Lunch; Sustainable Future Research Lunch)

2024

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (host: Christopher Golden, online)*; UC Santa Barbara (Gaines Lab, Marine Science Institute*; Environmental Markets Lab; Carleton Lab)

2022

Universidad de Talca, Chile*

Memberships

EEA, EAERE, AERE, Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics, International Coral Reef Society, The Explorers Club

Other Professional Experience

Consultant, BSS Economic Consultants, Basel (part-time) 2023–present
Research Assistant (2023–2026). Research and evaluation of development cooperation, government programs, and proposed environmental regulation on behalf of the Swiss government; project management and acquisition. Project coordinator for the multi–stakeholder industrial defossilization initiative Green Carbon Valley.

Analyst, adelphi research, Berlin 2020–2023
Coordinated the implementation of the German–Korean and –Japanese Energy Partnerships; organized high–level dialogues and conferences; drafted studies and briefing material on energy and climate policy; consulting for the Federal Government and partners, such as the Korea Energy Economics Institute.

Project Assistant, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Beijing 2018
Intern supporting the project *Emission Trading Schemes in China* on behalf of the German Federal Government. Research and policy analysis on ETS design and implementation; preparation of events, high–level meetings, and training programs for Chinese officials.

Selected Policy Reports

Meyer, N., **R. E. Sieler**, D. Wehrli, V. Legler, F. Kappeler, and M. Aepli (2026). *Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Indirect Counter-Proposal to the Responsible Business Initiative* [German]. Basel: BSS.

Dörr, H., J. Narita, H. Seitz, and **R. E. Sieler** (2026). *Renewable Energy Potential in Japan and Germany: An Overview of Different Renewable Energy Sources*. Berlin: adelphi.

Meyer, N., F. Kappeler, **R. E. Sieler**, and P. Gailhofer (2024). *Impacts of the CSDDD on Companies, the Business Location, and Competition in Switzerland* [German]. Basel: BSS.

Münch, M., H. Seitz, H. Dörr, **R. E. Sieler**, F. Teichmann, and J. Narita (2024). *Status of Hydrogen and Potential for Cooperation: Australia, Germany, Japan, and Korea*. Berlin: adelphi.

Sieler, R. E., and H. Dörr (2023). *Certification of Green and Low-Carbon Hydrogen*. Berlin: adelphi.

Selected Policy Engagement

European Co-President for Political Representation, FIMCAP 2021–2023
Led international climate advocacy and delegations to UN climate conferences (COP25–29); co-acquired more than EUR 200,000 in grants. I continue to support the organization's climate policy work.

UNFCCC Youth Constituency (YOUNGO) 2019–present
Contact point and coordinator of the Mitigation Working Group (2023-2024); speaker at the COP27 Opening Plenary (2022).

Founder and Coordinator, Network of European Youth NGOs for Climate Action 2023–2024

Board Member, Generation Climate Europe 2020–2023

External Expert Advisory Board, Horizon 2020 project GRETA 2021–2023

Languages and Skills

Languages: German (native), English (fluent; TOEFL 119/120), Spanish (very good), French (basic, currently learning)
Programming: Stata, R, Python, SAS, EViews
Remote sensing, machine learning: Google Earth Engine, deep learning (TensorFlow)

References

Prof. Beat Hintermann
University of Basel
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Prof. Christopher Golden
Harvard University
golden@hsph.harvard.edu

Prof. Conny Wunsch
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