

# Valentin Lindlacher

Munich Graduate School of Economics

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**Primary Field:** Regional Economics  
**Secondary Fields:** Development Economics, Political Economy  
**Research Topics:** Digital Infrastructure, Local Economic Growth, Electoral Turnout

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## REFERENCES

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<b>Oliver Falck</b> ifo Insitute Poschingerstr. 5 81679 München +49 (0) 89 9224 1370 <a href="mailto:falck@ifo.de">falck@ifo.de</a>	<b>Lukasz Grzybowski</b> Telecom ParisTech 19 place Marguerite Perey 91120 Palaiseau +33 (0) 1 75 31 98 93 <a href="mailto:lukasz.grzybowski@telecom-paris.fr">lukasz.grzybowski@telecom-paris.fr</a>	<b>Niklas Potrafke</b> ifo Insitute Poschingerstr. 5 81679 München +49 (0) 89 9224 1319 <a href="mailto:potrafke@ifo.de">potrafke@ifo.de</a>
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## EDUCATION

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2017 – 2022	Ph.D. Economics	LMU Munich
2014 – 2016	M.Sc. Mathematical Finance & Actuarial Science	TU Munich
2012 – 2015	B.A. Political Science	LMU Munich
2011 – 2014	B.Sc. Mathematics	TU Munich

## RESEARCH VISITS

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Sep – Oct 2021      Telecom ParisTech, Economics and Social Sciences Dep. Host: Lukasz Grzybowski

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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**Digital Infrastructure and Local Economic Growth: Early Internet in Sub-Saharan Africa** (with Moritz Goldbeck) [[latest version](#)]

Does internet availability, even at basic speeds, foster local economic growth in developing countries? We analyze 220 towns in 10 Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries in the early 2000s and measure local economic growth of towns using nighttime light satellite data. In a difference-in-differences setting, we exploit quasi-random variation in internet availability induced by sub-marine cable arrivals. Our findings suggest that internet availability at basic speeds leads to about two percentage points higher economic growth of SSA towns in the years after connection compared to a control group of similar towns connected only later. This result seems to be driven mainly by per capita productivity growth and only to a small extent by migration into connected towns. Moreover, internet availability is accompanied by a shift from agriculture to manufacturing in regional employment shares.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Is High-Speed Internet an Infrastructure of General Interest?** *Information Economics and Policy* (2021), Vol. 56:3. [[link to publication](#)]

## OTHER WORKING PAPERS

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**No Surprises, Please: Voting Costs and Electoral Turnout** (with Jean-Victor Alipour) [[latest version](#)]

We study how exogenous shocks to voting costs affect electoral turnout. Individuals whose polling place is relocated experience changes to their voting costs due to altered distance (transportation effect) and unfamiliarity with the new polling location (search effect). Using precinct-level data on eight elections in Munich (Germany), we find that polling place relocations reduce turnout by: 46 percentage points (p.p.) on average: in-person voting declines by: 75 p.p. and is only partly compensated by an: 29 p.p. increase in mail-in voting. However, the turnout drop appears transitory as mail-in votes balance the decline in in-person votes in subsequent elections. This finding suggests inattentiveness to relocations, causing individuals to miss the deadline for requesting mail-in ballots. Some inattentive voters switch to nonvoting today but revert to mail-in voting in ensuing elections. The pattern is consistent with rational choice models of voting and incompatible with the hypothesis that voting is habit forming.

**New Region, New Chances: Does Moving Regionally for University Shape Later Job Mobility?** (with Felix Ehrenfried) *R&R at Regional Studies* [[latest version](#)]

**Mobile Phones and Financial Inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa** (with Lukasz Grzybowski and Onkokame Mothobi) *under review* [[latest version](#)]

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**Digital Infrastructure: Regional Socioeconomic Effects of Mobile Internet** (with Moritz Goldbeck)

**Mobile Internet and Mental Health** (with Moritz Goldbeck and Anna Kerkhof)

**The Role of Interoperability and Locations of Mobile Money Agents for Financial Inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa** (with Lukasz Grzybowski and Onkokame Mothobi)

## PRESENTATIONS

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2021	North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS), ifo Dresden Workshop on Regional Economics, Applied Young Economicst Webinar series (by coauthor), Urban Economics Association PhD Student Workshop (UEA), 9th Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ), EBE CRC Summer School (Rationality and Competition), 10th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (UEA), 3rd International Workshop: Market Studies and Spatial Economics (HSE), Doctoral Conference Ruhr Graduate School in Economics (RGS)
2020	World Congress of the Econometric Society (ESWC), Economic Research South Africa (ERSA), Labour Economists World Conference (EAL/SOLE/AASLE), Meeting on Public Economics (EEP)
2019	Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS), Italian Society of Public Economics (SIEP), Jornadas de Economia Industrial (JEI), Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics Research Workshop
2018	European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE), International Telecommunications Society (ITS), Competition and Innovation Summer School (CISS), Doctoral Workshop on "The Economics of Digitization"

## NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLISHED WORK (in German)

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Ist Deutschland abgeschlagen im Rennen um 5G? (with Oliver Falck), *ifo Schnelldienst*, 2019, 72, Nr. 21

Digitalisierung in deutschen Unternehmen: Eine Bestandsaufnahme (with Alexandra Heimisch and Julia Schrickler), *ifo Schnelldienst*, 2017, 70, No. 21

## TEACHING

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2021	Seminar <i>Economics of digital transformation</i>	Teaching Assistant
2020	Seminar <i>The application of new empirical methods</i>	Teaching Assistant
2019	Seminar <i>Challenges for regional economic policy</i>	Teaching Assistant
2019	Seminar <i>Issues and methods of innovation economics</i>	Teaching Assistant
2018–2021	6 Bachelor and 1 Master theses	Co-Supervisor
2018	Seminar <i>Current issues in the economics of innovation</i>	Teaching Assistant
2017–2019	Tutorial <i>Introduction to Microeconomics</i>	Teaching Assistant

## THIRD-PARTY PROJECTS

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2020–2021	Evaluation of the Next Generation Access Programme, Policy evaluation of national state aid for broadband rollout in Germany
2017–2020	Economics of Innovation in Telecommunications, Thesis promotion funded by Deutsche Telekom AG

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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Journal Referee: *Information Economics and Policy, Review of Network Economics*

## HONOURS AND GRANTS

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2021–	Member of PILLARS – Pathways to Inclusive Labour Markets by European Commission (European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme)
2021–2022	Granted research proposal for the FIT IN Initiative (Toulouse)
2021	CESifo Young Ambassador Program for short-term stays
2021	Seed grant by the Bavarian Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt)
2016	Award for an excellent academic achievement in the field of economics (TUM)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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2017–2022	Junior Economist, ifo Institute, Munich
2013	Internship, Hypovereinsbank (UniCredit), Munich
2010–2011	Voluntary Work, UNESCO commission (program »kulturweit«), Mexico City

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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ArcGIS, QGIS, Stata, R, Python, and  $\LaTeX$

## LANGUAGES

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German, English, Spanish, and Portuguese

Last updated: September 24, 2021