

CV of Ulrich Matter

Assistant Professor of Economics
University of St.Gallen (HSG)
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<https://umatter.github.io>

Professional experience

- 2017- **Assistant Professor of Economics**, [SEPS-HSG](#),
[University of St.Gallen](#)
- 2021- **Guest Lecturer (Applied Data Science)**, [Faculty of Economics and Management](#),
[University of Lucerne](#)
- 2016-17 **Visiting Researcher**, [Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society](#),
[Harvard University](#)
- 2016 **Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer**, [Faculty of Business and Economics](#),
[University of Basel](#)
- 2015-16 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, [Faculty of Business and Economics](#), [University of Basel](#)
and (as guest) [CABDyN Complexity Centre](#), [Saïd Business School](#),
[University of Oxford](#)
- 2011-15 **Teaching and Research Assistant**, [Faculty of Business and Economics](#),
[University of Basel](#)
- 2005-09 **Assistant to the Head of Finance and Human Resources**,
[redtoo AG \(now Axians\)](#), Switzerland.

Faculty responsibilities/academic services

- 2020-24 Academic Director, Bachelor in Economics (University of St.Gallen).
- 2018-20 School representative of the non-tenured faculty (University of St.Gallen).
- 2018-20 Co-organizer of the economics research seminar (University of St.Gallen).
- 2012-16 Commissioner, pension fund commission of the University of Basel.

Education

- 2011-15 **Ph.D. Economics** (*summa cum laude*)
University of Basel
Political Economics in the Age of Big Public Data
- 2009-11 **M.Sc. Business and Economics**
University of Basel
- 2006-09 **B.Sc. Business Administration** (*Honours, 3rd best degree of the year*)
FHNW — University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland

Affiliations

- 2018- Research Fellow at the Center for Research in Economics, Management and the Arts
(CREMA)
- 2017- Member of the Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic
Research (SIAW-HSG)

Grants, awards, and scholarships

2023	Hasler Foundation Project Grant: <i>Using Large Language Models for Text-As-Data Studies in the Social Sciences</i> (CHF 48,000)
2023	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Project Grant: Ideological Ad Targeting in Consumer Markets and the Political Market Place (CHF 341,000)
2022	GFF (HSG Basic Research Fund) Project Grant: <i>Lobbying in Disguise</i> (CHF 98,000)
2022	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Project Grant: Consequences of Personalized Information Provision Online: Segregation, Polarization, and Radicalization (CHF 340,000)
2021	GFF (HSG Basic Research Fund) start-up financing (CHF 33,000)
2020	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Project Grant: The Political Economy of Attention and Electoral Accountability (as Project Partner; CHF 312,000)
2020	HMD Best Paper Award 2019
2019	SEPS Excellence in Teaching Award 2018/2019
2019	Nominee/Finalist Credit Suisse Award for Best Teaching 2019
2019	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Spark Grant (CHF 81,000)
2019	GFF (HSG Basic Research Fund) start-up financing (with Roland Hodler; CHF 37,000)
2016	Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES) Young Economist Award 2016 (with Michaela Slotwinski)
2016	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Early Postdoc.Mobility Fellowship (USD 63,300)
2015	Baume & Mercier Dissertation Award (Baume & Mercier Doktoratspreis)
2015	University of Basel Research Fund 2015 Grant for outstanding junior researchers (CHF 73,000)
2012	WWZ Forum Grant (with Alois Stutzer)
2012	Johann-Jakob Speiser-Scholarship 2012 for excellent young researchers

Publications

Working papers and book manuscripts

- 2024 **Matter, Ulrich**, Roland Hodler: Personalization of Web Search During the 2020 US Elections. CEPR Discussion Paper No. 18908. CEPR Press, Paris & London. ([PDF](#), conditionally accepted at the *AER: Insights*).
- 2021 **Matter, Ulrich**, Philine Widmer: Who Owns the Online Media?. University of St.Gallen. Available at SSRN. ([PDF](#), invitation to revise and resubmit to the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*).
- 2021 Guerrero, Omar, **Ulrich Matter**: Quantifying Vote Trading Through Network Reciprocity. SEPS Discussion Paper No. 2021-06, School of Economics and Political Science, University of St. Gallen. ([PDF](#), under review).

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

- 2024 Balles, Patrick, **Ulrich Matter**, Alois Stutzer: Special Interest Groups Versus Voters and the Political Economics of Attention. *The Economic Journal*, online access. ([PDF](#)).
- 2023 Balles, Patrick, **Ulrich Matter**, Alois Stutzer: Television market size and political accountability in the U.S. House of Representatives, *European Journal of Political Economy*, 80: 102459. ([PDF](#)).
- 2019 **Matter, Ulrich**: Big Public Data from the Programmable Web: Opportunities and Challenges. *HMD Praxis der Wirtschaftsinformatik (Special Issue on Big Data Analytics)*. 56(5): 1068–1081. <http://doi.org/10.1365/s40702-019-00525-6> ([PDF](#)). ([Best Paper Award](#)). ([Abstract](#)).
- 2019 **Matter, Ulrich**, Alois Stutzer: Does Public Attention Reduce the Influence of Moneyed Interests? Policy Positions on SOPA/PIPA Before and After the Internet Black-out. *Economic Inquiry*. 57(4): 1879-1895. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecin.12812> ([PDF](#)). ([Abstract](#)).
- 2019 Katz, Yarden, **Ulrich Matter**: Metrics of Inequality: The Concentration of Resources in the U.S. Biomedical Elite. *Science as Culture*. <http://doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2019.1694882> ([PDF](#)). ([Abstract](#)), ([Longer Working Paper Version](#), [Supplemental Material](#)). Media Coverage: [Science](#), [nrc.nl](#).
- 2018 **Matter, Ulrich** (2018). RWebData: A High-Level Interface to the Programmable Web. *Journal of Open Research Software*. 6(1): 1-12. <http://doi.org/10.5334/jors.201> ([PDF](#)). ([Abstract](#), [Code](#)).
- 2016 **Matter, Ulrich**, Alois Stutzer (2016). The Role of Party Politics in Medical Malpractice Tort Reforms. *European Journal of Political Economy*. 42: 17-35. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2016.01.001> ([PDF](#)). ([Abstract](#)).
- 2015 **Matter, Ulrich**, Alois Stutzer (2015). pvsR: An Open Source Interface to Big Data on the American Political Sphere. *PLOS ONE*. 10(7): 1-21. <http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0130501> ([PDF](#)). ([R package](#), [Code](#), [Blogpost](#)).
- 2015 **Matter, Ulrich**, Alois Stutzer (2015). The Role of Lawyer-Legislators in Shaping the Law: Evidence from Voting on Tort Reforms. *Journal of Law and Economics*. 58(2): 357-384. <http://doi.org/10.1086/684039> ([PDF](#)). ([Working Paper Version](#), [Online Appendix](#), [Blogpost](#)).

Books and book chapters

- 2025 **Matter, Ulrich** *An Introduction to Web Mining with Applications in R*. Heidelberg: Springer International Publishing. Manuscript in preparation.
- 2024 **Matter, Ulrich**: *Data Analysis with AI and R: Using OpenAI, Copilot, and aider*. Shelter Island, NY: Manning Publications Co., released under the Manning Early Access Program (MEAP).
- 2024 Balles, Patrick, **Matter, Ulrich**, Stutzer, Alois: The Political Economics of Attention. In: Bjornskov, Christian and Jong-A-Pin, Richard (eds.). Elgar Encyclopedia of Public Choice. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, *Forthcoming*. Expected publication in autumn 2024.
- 2023 **Matter, Ulrich**: *Big Data Analytics: A Guide to Data Science Practitioners Making the Transition to Big Data*. Boca Raton, FL: Chapman & Hall, CRC Press.
- 2021 **Matter, Ulrich**: Data Pipelines in Big Data Analytics. In: D’Onofrio, S., and Meier, A. (eds.). *Big Data Analytics – Grundlagen, Fallbeispiele und Nutzungspotenziale*. Wiesbaden: Springer Vieweg.
- 2020 **Matter, Ulrich**: *Big Public Data from the Programmable Web*. Wiesbaden: Springer Vieweg.
- 2019 **Matter, Ulrich**: Ulrich Matter Recommends ‘Towards a Political Theory of the Firm’ by Luigi Zingales. In Frey, Bruno S., Schaltegger, Christoph A. (eds.). *21st Century Economics – Economic Ideas You Should Read and Remember*. Cham: Springer.

Software

1. TheOpenAIR: Integrate OpenAI Large Language Models into Your R Workflows. R package version 0.1.0.
<https://openair-lib.org/>
2. tidyair: Tidy Data With Large Language Models. R package version 0.1.0.
<https://umatter.github.io/tidyair>
3. placeR: A wrapper for the Google Places API. R package version 0.1.0.
<https://github.com/umatter/placeR>
4. mediacloudr: An R Package to Interact with the Media Cloud API. R package version 0.1.
<https://github.com/umatter/mediacloudr> (first release: 2021)
5. RWebData: A High-Level Interface to the Programmable Web. R package version 0.2.
<https://github.com/umatter/RWebData> (first release: 2016-03-01)
6. netensembleR: Analysis and Sampling of Directed Networks in R. R package version 0.1.
<https://github.com/umatter/netensembleR> (first release: 2016-07-18)
7. pvsR: An R Package to Interact with the Project Vote Smart API for Scientific Research. R Package Version 0.3.
<http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=pvsR> (first release: 2013-05-29).

Invited talks, seminar and conference presentations

- 2023 University Paris-Dauphine–PSL Public Governance Working Group online seminar (scheduled). Ariel University, Israel (scheduled). ETH Zurich, Switzerland. University of Bayreuth, Germany. First SCS/SEPS Workshop, University of St. Gallen. Workshop on the Political Economy of Attention and Electoral Accountability, University of Basel.

- 2022 Banco de Portugal Microdata Research Laboratory, Porto Business School. 5th Economics of Media Bias Workshop, Berlin Social Science Center. 5th International Conference on the Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship, University of Muenster. The 2022 Meeting of the German Economic Association, University of Basel. SSES Annual Congress 2022, University of Fribourg, Switzerland. 2022 Silvaplana Political Economy Workshop.
- 2021 Jahrestagung des Vereins fuer Socialpolitik 2021, The 2021 Meeting of the German Economic Association, University of Regensburg, Germany. EPCS 2021, The 2021 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society, University of Lille, France.
- 2020 University of Lucerne, Switzerland. University of Bern, Switzerland. University of Hamburg, Germany. Applied Microeconomics Workshop, University of Konstanz/University of St.Gallen.
- 2019 Second Symposium on Ethical and Legal Issues in Big Data Research - University of Basel.
- 2018 EEA|ESEM Congress 2018 - Cologne, EPCS 2018 (The 2018 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society) - Rome, Computational Social Science Workshop - St. Gallen.
- 2017 Jahrestagung des Vereins fuer Socialpolitik 2017 (The 2017 Meeting of the German Economic Association) - Vienna. ALEA 2017, Annual Meeting of the American Law and Economics Association - Yale University, CRCS Seminar - Center for Research on Computation and Society at Harvard University, PCS 2017 (The 2017 Meeting of the Public Choice Society) - New Orleans.
- 2016 Assistentenkonferenz 2016 - Fribourg, SSES Annual Congress 2016 - USI Lugano, EPCS 2016 (The 2016 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society) - Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet Freiburg.
- 2015 IC²S² 2015 (International Conference for Computational Social Science 2015) - Helsinki, SSES Annual Congress 2015 - Basel, EPCS 2015 (The 2015 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society) - Groningen.
- 2014 Assistentenkonferenz 2014 Assistentenkonferenz - Walter Eucken Institut Freiburg, Jahrestagung des Vereins fuer Socialpolitik 2014 (The 2014 Meeting of the German Economic Association) - Hamburg, EPCS 2014 (The 2014 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society) - Cambridge University.
- 2013 EEA|ESEM Congress 2013 - Gothenburg, Research Seminar at the Department of Computational Social Science - George Mason University, ZEW International Conference on Fiscal Performance: The Role of Institutions and Politicians - Mannheim, EPCS 2013 (The 2013 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society) - ETH Zurich.

Consulting services

- 2018-19 Statistics and Business Analytics (KPI Analytics) consulting for the [Operational Excellence group at ITEM-HSG](#): FDA Quality Metrics Initiative.
(hypothesis, multiple linear regression, cluster analysis, panel data)
- 2019 R in KPI Analytics consulting for the [Operational Excellence group at ITEM-HSG](#): FDA Quality Metrics Initiative.
(data import, data handling, tidy data, R vs SPSS)

Languages

German/Swiss German (mother tongue), English (full proficiency), Spanish/Castilian (intermediate), French (intermediate)

January 2024