STEFAN J. DIETRICH

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Economics Ph.D. candidate, Boston University (applied microeconometrics; degree expected May 2027). Three working papers estimate causal effects and asset values from patent, firm, and geospatial data using staggered difference-in-differences, event studies, instrumental variables, and present-value analysis.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Boston University 2021 – May 2027 (expected)

Applied microeconomics, economics of innovation, economic history. Best Second-Year Paper Award, 2023.

M.Sc. in Economics, London School of Economics 2019

B.Sc. in Economics, University of Mannheim — with distinction (grade 1.1, top 10%) 2018

Scholar, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung; about 0.5% of German students), 2016–2019.

EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher, Boston University, Department of Economics 2021 – present

Professional societies and patenting: 22 staggered chapter foundings, Germany 1877–1918 (job market paper)

- Built a panel of 493 districts for 1877–1918 (20,706 district-years) from a corpus of renewed, high-value patents geocoded to inventor residence; hand-transcribed and deduplicated 42,689 society membership entries into 26,869 individuals and linked them to patentees by probabilistic record linkage (644 matches).
- Estimated chapter effects by staggered difference-in-differences and event studies (Callaway–Sant'Anna; four alternative estimators as checks): annual high-value patenting rises about 4%, reaching 9–10% after 15 years, with flat pre-trends; 14 robustness specifications and a placebo on out-of-scope patent classes.
- Traced the effect to practicing owner-engineers (3.8 pp more likely to patent than salaried engineers) rather than credentialed graduates

Pricing the ecosystem services of U.S. peatlands (with Nils Lieber; working paper)

- Computed the conservation cost of every peatland cell in the conterminous U.S. from three national rasters (30 m USDA Forest Service carbon, land value, flood mitigation) and traced the national abatement supply curve.
- Valued 25-year conservation contracts at a 4% discount rate: 79% of U.S. peatland is conservable at or below \$50/tCO_2—28.6 MtCO_2 a year, 93% of peatland emissions—for \$14.0B present value; flood co-benefits add about \$15B.

Agricultural origins of Germany's niche world-market leaders, the "Hidden Champions" (working paper)

- Matched all 10,785 German municipalities to a firm census of Hidden Champions and instrumented viticulture with climatic suitability (Huglin index): viticulture raises a municipality's count of such firms by 31%, with spillovers to adjacent municipalities; robust to soil, geography, density, and state fixed effects.

Teaching Fellow and Teaching Assistant, Boston University, Department of Economics 2022 – 2025

- Led 12+ discussion sections in introductory micro- and macroeconomics and economic history (mean evaluation 4.2/5); graded and wrote model solutions for four undergraduate and master's courses.

Research Assistant, University of Mannheim, Department of Economics 2019 – 2020

- Coordinated a team of research assistants; digitized and cleaned historical records into analysis-ready datasets for research on long-run growth; ran spatial regressions with Conley HAC standard errors (R, Stata).

Farm Manager, family crop–livestock farm, Germany 2011 – 2012

- Ran the operation at 18: negotiated sales contracts to hedge price risk; recruited and managed seasonal workers.

SKILLS

Software: Stata (advanced), Python, R, SQL, QGIS, Git, Excel, LaTeX
Methods: difference-in-differences and event studies, instrumental variables, panel econometrics, geospatial analysis, probabilistic record linkage, cost–benefit and present-value analysis, data digitization and OCR
Languages: German (native), English (fluent)

German (EU) citizen; F-1 visa, eligible for post-completion OPT; available from summer 2027.