

# JOHANNES MÜNSTER

## CURRICULUM VITAE

October 2025

### PERSONAL DETAILS

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Phone: +49 - (0)221 - 470 - 4411 (office)

### EDUCATION

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Dr. rer. pol., Freie Universität Berlin, July 2006, Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Kai A. Konrad and Prof. Dr. Helmut Bester, summa cum laude  
Diplom Volkswirt, Freie Universität Berlin, October 2001  
M.A. in Philosophy & Economics, Freie Universität Berlin, August 2000

### CURRENT POSITION

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Associate Professor (W2, with tenure), Department of Economics, University of Cologne (since March 2012).  
Investigator, ECONtribute Cluster of Excellence.  
Principal Investigator, C-SEB – Center for Social and Economic Behavior, Universität zu Köln.

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS

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Assistant Professor (Juniorprofessor, W1), School of Economics and Business, Free University of Berlin (October 2010-February 2012).  
Research fellow, Department of Economics, Institute for Economic Theory, Chair: Helmut Bester, Free University of Berlin, SFB/TR 15 Project A1 (April 2009-September 2010).  
Visiting Professor (Lehrstuhlvertreter) Wirtschaftstheorie I, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (October 2007 – February 2008)  
Research fellow at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), Research Unit Market Processes and Governance (November 2001- March 2009).  
SFB/TR 15 „Governance and the Efficiency of Economic Systems“, Project A2 (January 2004-March 2009).  
Teaching Assistant (student. Hilfskraft) for philosophy with Prof. Dr. Peter Bieri at the Free University of Berlin (1997-2000).

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Media economics  
Applied Microeconomics

1. Debunking “fake news” on social media: Immediate and short-term effects of fact-checking and media literacy interventions (with Lara Marie Berger, Anna Kerkhof, and Felix Mindl), *Journal of Public Economics* (2025).
2. Strategic Complementarities in a Model of Commercial Media Bias (with Anna Kerkhof), *Games* (2025) 16(3), 21.
3. Selective sharing of news items and the political position of news outlets (with Julian Freitag and Anna Kerkhof), *Information Economics and Policy* (2021), 56.
4. Detecting coverage bias in user-generated content (with Anna Kerkhof), *Journal of Media Economics* (2019), 32 (3-4), 99-130.
5. Incumbency Dominance in Letters to the Editor: Field Experimental Evidence (with Markus Dertwinkel-Kalt and Anna Kerkhof), *Political Communication* (2019) 36:3, 337-356.
6. Online shopping and platform design with ex ante registration requirements (with Florian Morath), *Management Science* (2018), Vol. 64 No. 1, 360-380.
7. Subjective Evaluation versus Public Information (with Helmut Bester), *Economic Theory* (2016), 61(4), 723–753.
8. Quantity restrictions on advertising, commercial media bias, and welfare (with Anna Kerkhof), *Journal of Public Economics* (2015), Vol. 131, 124-141.
9. Information sharing in contests (with Dan Kovenock and Florian Morath), *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy* (2015), Vol. 24 Number 3, 546-572.
10. Communication and commitment in contests (with Qiang Fu and Oliver Gürtler), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (2013), 95, 1– 19.
11. Information acquisition in conflicts (with Florian Morath), *Economic Theory* (2013), 54, 99–129.
12. Information policy in tournaments with sabotage (with Oliver Gürtler and Petra Nieken), *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* (2013), 115(3), 932–966.
13. Rational Self-Sabotage (with Oliver Gürtler), *Mathematical Social Sciences* (2013), 65, 1–4.
14. A strategic mediator who is biased into the same direction as the expert can improve information transmission (with Lydia Mechtenberg), *Economics Letters* (2012), 117, 490–492.
15. How organizational structure can reduce rent-seeking (with Klaas Staal), *Public Choice* (2012), 150, 579-594.
16. War with Outsiders Makes Peace Inside (with Klaas Staal), *Conflict Management and Peace Science* (2011), 28(2), 91–110.
17. Sabotage in dynamic tournaments (with Oliver Gürtler), *Journal of Mathematical Economics* (2010), 46, 179–190.
18. Group contest success functions, *Economic Theory* (2009), Vol. 41 Iss. 2, 345 - 357.
19. Repeated contests with asymmetric information, *Journal of Public Economic Theory* (2009), Vol. 11 Issue 1, 89 – 118.

20. All Equilibria of the Multi-Unit Vickrey Auction (with Andreas Blume, Paul Heidhues, Jonathan Lafky, and Meixia Zhang) *Games and Economic Behavior* (2009), Vol. 66, Issue 2, 729-741.
21. Private versus complete information in auctions (with Florian Morath), *Economics Letters* (2008), 101, 214–216.
22. Simultaneous Inter- and Intra-Group Conflicts, *Economic Theory* (2007), 32, 333-352.
23. Selection Tournaments, Sabotage, and Participation, *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy* (2007), Vol. 16, Nr. 4, 943–970.
24. Contests with Investment, *Managerial and Decision Economics* (2007), Volume 28, Issue 8, 849-862.
25. Rents, Dissipation and Lost Treasures: Comment, *Public Choice* (2007), Vol. 130, 329-335.
26. Lobbying Contests with Endogenous Policy Proposals, *Economics and Politics* (2006), Vol. 18, No. 3, 389-397.
27. Contests with an Unknown Number of Contestants, *Public Choice* (2006), Vol. 129, No. 3-4, 2006, 353-368.

#### DISCUSSION PAPERS

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1. Sequencing bargaining with externalities, with Markus Reisinger.
2. Centralized bargaining in press wholesale, with Frank-Christian May.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

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1. Fact checking and trust in information sources, with Anna Kerkhof and Frederick Schwerter
2. Attention and demand for news, with Markus Dertwinkel-Kalt and Dainis Zegners.
3. Equilibrium privacy protection, with Florian Morath

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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1. Individuelle digitale Souveränität bedarf – aufgrund ökonomischer Eigenschaften digitaler Märkte – kollektiver Rahmenbedingungen (with Johanna Gans). *UFITA Archiv für Medienrecht und Mediennwissenschaft* 88 (1), 2024.
2. Fake News in den sozialen Medien – was hilft? Mit L. Berger, A. Kerkhof, A. und F. Mindl. *ECONtribute Policy Brief* No. 39 (2022).
3. Was passiert mit dem Qualitätsjournalismus? Entstehen neue Meinungsmonopole? Zu den Auswirkungen der Digitalisierung auf die Medien. In: Sandra Hannappel, Rebekka Rehm (Hrsg.) 2017, *Digitale Ökonomie - Wie verändern sich die Märkte?* Sammelband zur Ringvorlesung. IWP, Universität zu Köln.
4. Medienfinanzierung und Unabhängigkeit aus ökonomischer Perspektive. In: Kai von Lewinsky (ed.), *Wer bezahlt, bestellt*, Nomos Verlag, 2017, 13-31.
5. Ökonomische Hintergründe der Schnittstellenproblematik, *Zeitschrift für Geistiges Eigentum* Volume 8, Number 3: Schnittstellen zwischen Medienrecht und Wirtschaftsrecht, September 2016, 368-383.
6. Medienökonomische Perspektiven. In: *Media Bias im Internet-Tendenzfreiheit und Vielfalt von Medien(inhalten)*. Institut für

Rundfunkrecht an der Universität zu Köln und Institut für Rundfunkökonomie der Universität zu Köln. Gemeinsame Vortragsveranstaltung am 19. Juni 2015. Hg.: Klaus Stern, Karl-Nikolaus Peifer und Karl-E. Hain. C.H. Beck, 2016. S. 65-83.

7. Kollektive Verhandlungen im Presse-Grosso (with Frank Christian May), in: Journalismus ist kein Geschäftsmodell. Aktuelle Studien zur Ökonomie und Nicht-Ökonomie des Journalismus, edited by Frank Lobigs and Gerret von Nordheim, Nomos Verlag 2014.
8. Der gekaufte Krieg. Söldner in Bürgerkriegen nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg. *WZB Mitteilungen* 126, Dezember 2009, 38-40.
9. Mercenaries in Civil Wars, 1950-2000, with Sven Chojnacki and Nils Metternich. *WZB Discussion Paper* SP II 2009 – 05.
10. Wenn Wettbewerb schädlich ist. Sabotage im Kampf um Beförderungen und Prämien. *WZB Mitteilungen* 114, Dezember 2006, 49-51.

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#### EDITORIAL SERVICES

Guest Editor, with Harald Gapski, Stephan Packard and Karl-Nikolaus Peifer, Streit um digitale Souveränität, *UFITA: Archiv für Medienrecht und Mediennwissenschaft* 88.1 (2024).

Guest Editor, with Stergios Skaperdas, Special Issue on Causes and Consequences of Conflict, *Economics of Governance* Vol. 11(2), 2010.

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#### ACTIVITIES

Mitglied der Themengruppe *Medien und demokratische Öffentlichkeiten*, Wissenschaftsforum zu Köln und Essen

Academic Director, Doctoral Studies in Economics, Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät Universität zu Köln (since 2024, Stellvertreter 2020-2024)

Board Member, Cologne Graduate School of Economics, since 2020

Steering Committee Cluster of Excellence ECONtribute (April 2021-August 2023)

Young ECONtribute Program Representative (April 2021-Aug 2023)

Ethikkommission der WiSo Fakultät, Universität zu Köln (2019-2022)

Engere Fakultät der WiSo Fakultät, Universität zu Köln, 2017-2019, 2019-2021

Direktor, Institut für Rundfunkökonomie der Universität zu Köln (September 2013 – December 2016) (with Detlef Schoder).

Direktor (until 2018), VWL Bibliothek, Universität zu Köln.

Member of the Steering Committee of the Network of European Peace Scientists (June 2007 – July 2012).

Gemeinsamer Prüfungsausschuss der WiSo Fakultät, Universität zu Köln, April 2015- March 2019; stellvertretendes Mitglied, Juli 2012-April 2015.

Member of the board of the SFB/TR 15 „Governance and the Efficiency of Economic Systems“, German Research Foundation (July 2004 - February 2012).

Member of the Scientific Council of the WZB (2004-2005).

Mentor, Xenion e.V. (2010-2012).

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

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Co-organizer of the Workshop on the Economics of Media Bias, Cologne 2024, with Marcel Garz, Chris Roth, Mattias Polborn.

Co-organizer of the 3rd Workshop on the Economics of Media Bias, Cologne 2018 (with Marcel Garz, Jil Sörensen, Anna Kerkhof).

Co-organizer of the 11th Conference of the SFB/TR 15 „Industrial Organisation and Market Governance,” (with Helmut Bester and Claudia Salim), Caputh, May 19-21, 2010.

Co-organizer of the conference “Causes and Consequences of Conflict” (with Stergios Skaperdas and Kai A. Konrad), supported by a grant of the Thyssen Stiftung, March 2008.

Co-organizer of the Young Researchers’ Workshop on Contests and Tournaments (with Oliver Gürtler and Kai A. Konrad), November 16-17, 2007. Co-organizer of the conference “Contests in Economics and Biology” (with Thomas R. Cusack and Kai A. Konrad), July 2006, supported by a grant of the Thyssen Stiftung.

Co-organizer of the conference “Advances in the Theory of Contests and Tournaments” (with Derek J. Clark, Thomas R. Cusack, Kai A. Konrad, and Lars-Hendrik Röller), October 2005; supported by a grant of the Volkswagen-Stiftung.

Seminar Organizer of the WZB Economics Seminar Series, August 2002 - August 2004.

Co-organizer of the conference “Advances in Auction Theory” (with Paul Heidhues and Kai A. Konrad), Berlin, October 2004

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

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Stuart A. Bremer Award 2007 for best paper delivered by a young European peace scientist at the Jan Tinbergen Peace Science Conference, Amsterdam.

Tiburtius-Preis - der Berliner Hochschulen 2007 (1. prize, for Ph.D. thesis).

Invited to present at the European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society 2006.

Best Diploma in Economics, Freie Universität Berlin, Fall 2001.