

CURRICULUM VITAE – MICHAEL BERGER

Medical University of Vienna, Kinderspitalgasse 15, 1090 Vienna

☎ +43 1 40160-34851 ✉ mberger.econ@gmail.com 🌐 sites.google.com/view/michaelberger

EDUCATION

Doctorate in ECONOMICS • Vienna University of Economics and Business <i>Thesis: Safeguarding financial sustainability: Three essays on efficiency in healthcare</i> Committee: Simone Ghislandi, Marcel Bilger, August Österle • <i>With Highest Honors</i>	10/2016 – 05/2020
Master in ECONOMICS (MSc equivalent) • University of Vienna	10/2012 – 04/2015
Bachelor in ECONOMICS (BSc equivalent) • University of Vienna	09/2009 – 06/2012

CURRENT POSITIONS

Postdoctoral University Assistant (career track) Medical University of Vienna Department of Health Economics, Center for Public Health	10/2025 – Present
Fellow Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna Health Economics and Policy Group	06/2021 – Present
Affiliated Researcher University of Helsinki Max Planck — University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health Helsinki Institute for Demography and Population Health	04/2026 – present

PAST RESEARCH AND TEACHING POSITIONS

Visiting Researcher University of Helsinki Max Planck — University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health Helsinki Institute for Demography and Population Health	04/2025 – 03/2026
University Assistant (PostDoc) Medical University of Vienna Department of Health Economics, Center for Public Health	07/2020 – 09/2025
Lecturer Vienna University of Economics and Business Economic and fiscal policy, undergraduate	2020 – 2022
Doctoral Candidate Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna Health Economics and Policy Group	04/2017 – 06/2020
Junior Researcher IMEHPS.research, Vienna	09/2015 – 03/2017
Teaching Assistant University of Vienna Department of Economics, Introductory Macroeconomics, undergraduate	10/2014 – 07/2015
Teaching Assistant University of Vienna Department of Economics, Student-organized lecture, undergraduate	10/2013 – 01/2014
Research Assistant Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna Health Economics and Policy Group	08/2012 – 11/2014

RESEARCH GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Erwin Schrödinger Scholarship Austrian Science Fund <i>Principal Investigator</i> • Funding volume: EUR 55,600 <i>"Mortgages, household economic resilience and health", 12 month research visit at the Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health</i>	2025-2026
STREAMLINE Vienna Science and Technology Fund <i>Co-Principal Investigator</i> • Funding volume: EUR 274,840 <i>Establishing a Reference Unit Costs catalogue for the optimized evaluation and planning of mental healthcare in Vienna</i>	2023-2026
Franz Weninger Award Central Bank of the Republic of Austria <i>Outstanding master and doctoral theses in the field of monetary theory and monetary policy</i>	2015

WORK IN PROGRESS

Berger M, Damiens J, Lunna L, Martikainen P. Buy or rent? Mental health risk trade-offs from involuntary job loss between homeownership and mortgage debt
Berger M, Fischer C, Eychmüller S, Fürst CJ, van Zuijlen L, van der Heide A, Simon J. Costs and effects of a digital clinical tool to optimize medication management at the end of life: a before-and-after study in the iLIVE project

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Fischer C, Saly E, Berger M, Masel EK, Simon J. Economic evaluations in the palliative and end-of-life care settings: A systematic review of existing evidence, methods and quality. <i>Palliative Medicine</i> . 2026;0(0). doi:10.1177/02692163261418546. 2026.

- Dozler M, Berger M, Mayer S. Parental socioeconomic status and other sociodemographic determinants of health disparities among children and adolescents in Austria. *Public Health in Practice*, 11: 100732. 2026
- Damiens J, Berger M, Junna L, Martikainen P. Mortgage affordability and mental healthcare use: Evidence from Finnish population registers. *Social Science & Medicine*, 392: 118924. 2026
- Berger M, Helter T, Azim L, Chadwick T, Courtney P, Fouweather T, Geddes J, Hindmarch P, Morriss, R, Stokes PRA, Weetman C, Young AH, McAllister-Williams RH, Simon J. Cost-Effectiveness of pramipexole in addition to mood stabilisers for patients with treatment resistant bipolar depression: the PAX-BD randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, Volume 391, 119937. 2025. DOI: 10.1016/j.jad.2025.119937
- McAllister-Williams RH, Goudie N, Azim L, Bartle V, Berger M, Butcher C., ..., Watson S. A randomised double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of pramipexole in addition to mood stabilisers for patients with treatment-resistant bipolar depression (the PAX-BD study). *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 02698811241309622. 2025.
- Berger M, Zuba M, Simon J. Urban-rural disparities in hospital admissions for depression in Austria: a spatial panel data analysis. *Health Policy*, 151: 105209. 2025. DOI: 10.1016/j.healthpol.2024.105209
- Mayer S, Berger M, Perić N et al. The Development of a New Approach for the Harmonized Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Country Cost Valuation of Services: The PECUNIA Reference Unit Cost (RUC) Templates. *Appl Health Econ Health Policy*, 22: 783–796. 2024. DOI: 10.1007/s40258-024-00905-0
- Berger M, Six E, Czypionka T. Policy implications of heterogeneous demand reactions to changes in cost-sharing: Patient-level evidence from Austria. *Social Science & Medicine*, 340: 116488. 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116488
- Mayer S, Berger M, Oberndorfer M. Equal in ashes? Exploring socioeconomic inequalities in lifespan based on obituary data in Austria. *SSM Population Health*, 24: 101550. 2023. DOI: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2023.101550
- Berger M, Pock M, Reiss M, Röhrling G, Czypionka T. Effectiveness of Retail Pharmaceutical Expenditure Reforms: cross-country evidence from weighted-average least squares estimation. *International Journal of Health Economics and Management* 23, 149–172. 2023. DOI: 10.1007/s10754-022-09337-6
- Berger M, Mayer S, Simon J. A novel set of Austrian reference unit costs for comprehensive societal perspectives consistent with latest European costing methods for economic evaluations. *Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift (The Central European Journal of Medicine)*. 136: 1–12, 2024. DOI: 10.1007/s00508-022-02128-6
- Janssen LMM, Pokhilenko I, Drost RMWA, Paulus ATG, Thorn J, Hollingworth W, Noble S, Berger M, Simon J, Evers SMAA. PECUNIA Group. Methods for think-aloud interviews in health-related resource-use research: the PECUNIA RUM instrument. *Expert Rev Pharmacoecon Outcomes Res.* 2023 Apr;23(4):383-389. DOI: 10.1080/14737167.2023.2187379.
- Pokhilenko I, Kast T, Janssen LMM, Evers SMAA, Paulus ATG, Simon J, Mayer S, Berger M, Konnopka A, Muntendorf L, Brodsky V, García-Pérez L, Park A, Salvador-Carulla L, Drost RMWA. PECUNIA-group. International comparability of reference unit costs of education services: when harmonizing methodology is not enough (PECUNIA project). *Expert Rev Pharmacoecon Outcomes Res.* 23(1):135-141. 2023. DOI: 10.1080/14737167.2023.2152331
- Thorn J, Janssen L, Pokhilenko I, Berger M, Evers SMAA, Simon J. *Conducting Think-Aloud Interviews Online: Development of a Recall Questionnaire in the PECUNIA Project*. London: Sage Publications Ltd; 2022. DOI: 10.4135/9781529607475
- Yildiz B, et al. Live well, die well – an international cohort study on experiences, concerns and preferences of patients in the last phase of life: the research protocol of the iLIVE study. *BMJ Open* 2022;12:e057229. DOI:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-057229
- Mayer S, Berger M, Konnopka A, Brodsky V, Evers SMAA, Hakkaart-van Roijen L, et al. on behalf of the PECUNIA Group. In search for comparability: The PECUNIA reference unit costs for health and social care services in Europe. *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 19(6):3500. 2022. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph19063500
- Simon J, Anees AA, Wolstenholme J, Berger M, Goodwin GM, Geddes JR. The costs of bipolar disorder in the United Kingdom. *Brain Behav.* 2021 Oct; 11(10):e2351. DOI: 10.1002/brb3.2351
- Berger M, Czypionka T. Regional medical practice variation in high-cost healthcare services: Evidence from diagnostic imaging in Austria. *Eur J Health Econ.* 2021 Jul; 22(6):917-929. DOI: 10.1007/s10198-021-01298-w
- Berger M, Sommersguter-Reichmann M, Czypionka T. Determinants of soft budget constraints: How public debt

affects hospital performance in Austria. Soc Sci Med. 2020 Mar; 249:112855. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.112855

Katschnig H, Straßmayr C, Endel F, Berger M, Zauner G, Kalseth J, et al. Using national electronic health care registries for comparing the risk of psychiatric re-hospitalisation in six European countries: opportunities and limitations. Health Policy. 2019 Nov; 123(11):1028-1035. DOI:10.1016/j.healthpol.2019.07.006

RESEARCH REPORTS

Czypionka T, Berger M: Selbstbehalte in der Sozialversicherung. Einsatz als Steuerungs- und Finanzierungsinstrument [Cost-sharing in social health insurance. Application as a steering and financing instrument.] IHS Research Report, December 2018.

Czypionka T, Ulinski S, Berger M: Best Point of Service: Konzeption und Ansätze zur Bestimmung [Best Point of Service: Conception and Approaches for Identification]. IHS Research Report, October 2013

Czypionka T, Ulinski S, Berger M: Skaleneffekte intermediärer Versorgungsformen [Economics of Scale in Intermediate Care]. IHS Research Report, March 2013

Czypionka T, Mllbacher S, Berger M, Platzer J: Kooperationen in der ambulanten Versorgung [Cooperation in Ambulatory Care]. IHS Research Report, September 2012

OTHER PERIODICALS

Czypionka T, Berger M: Über-, Unter- und Fehlversorgung im Gesundheitswesen: Nutzung der MRT in Österreich. [Over-, under- and inappropriate provision of healthcare services: MRI utilization in Austria]. Health System Watch II/2018.

Czypionka T, Berger M: Zum Nutzen von Diagnosekodierungen in Österreich [On the Benefits of Diagnosis Codes in Austria.] Health System Watch IV/2014

Czypionka T, Röhrling G, Ulinski S, Berger M: Ambulatory Sensitive Care Conditions: Einflussmöglichkeiten und Ansätze zur Reduktion – Internationale Evidenz. [Ambulatory Sensitive Care Conditions: Influences and Approaches for Reduction – International Evidence.] Health System Watch II/2014

Czypionka T, Sigl C, Berger M, Kronemann F, Reiss M: Qualitätsmanagement im ambulanten Bereich - Teil 2 [Quality Management in the Outpatient Sector]. Health System Watch, I-B/2014.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	2025
7th NOeG WU Winter Workshop, Vienna	
European Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	2024
European Public Health Conference, Dublin	2023
Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	
European Health Economics Association Conference, Oslo	2022
Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry (ICMPE), Venice	
International Health Economics Association World Congress, virtual	2021
Austrian Health Economics Association, Vienna	
Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	2020
International Health Economics Association World Congress, Basel	2019
Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	
European Health Economics Association Conference, Maastricht	2018
Congress EPA Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry, Vienna	
Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	2017
Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna	2016

INVITED TALKS

Berger M. Buy or rent? Mental health risk trade-offs from involuntary job loss between homeownership and mortgage debt. EuHEA virtual seminar series, 2025 Dec 2; online (oral)

Berger M. Buy or rent? Mental health risk trade-offs from involuntary job loss between homeownership and mortgage debt. IHS Brown Bag Lunch Research Seminar, 2025 Nov 11, Vienna (oral)

Berger M. Urban-rural disparities in inpatient care use – A spatial panel data analysis of hospital admissions for depression in Austria. ZPH Science Lunch, 2024 Dec 12, Vienna (oral)

Berger M. Flugrettung in der präklinischen Versorgung: Eine gesundheitsökonomische Erörterung. Symposium zum

40. Jubiläum der Flugrettung; Vienna; 2023 Jun 29 (invited talk)

Berger M. Regulation incentives. How Austria's institutional setting promotes regional variation in healthcare utilization. DHE 10th Anniversary Symposium; 2023 Sep 25; Vienna (oral)

Berger M: Devil in the details: how urgency and costs influence the effects of cost-sharing on healthcare service consumption patterns. ZPH Science Lunch, 2021 04 November, Vienna (oral)

Berger M: Devil in the details: how urgency and costs influence the effects of cost-sharing on healthcare service consumption patterns. EuHEA virtual seminar series 2021, 04 March 2021; virtual (oral)

Berger M: The effects of a Soft Budget Constraint on Hospital Performance. ATHEA & ÖGOR Workshop on Health Care and Disaster Management. Vienna, 16 November 2018; Vienna (oral)

TEACHING

Medical University of Vienna	2024
Practice seminar modules Survival Analysis and Health Policy Evaluation (PhD)	
Seminar Health Economic Evaluations (undergraduate)	
Module on Cost Effectiveness Analysis (graduate)	
Modules on Survival Analysis and Cost Effectiveness Analysis (graduate)	
Medical University of Vienna	2023
Practice seminar modules Survival Analysis and Health Policy Evaluation (PhD)	
Modules on Survival Analysis and Cost Effectiveness Analysis (graduate)	
Seminar Health Economic Evaluations (undergraduate)	
Seminar in Scientific Practice: project studies (undergraduate)	
Medical University of Vienna	2022
Practice Seminar on System Level Evaluation and Decision Making (PhD)	
Modules on Survival Analysis and Cost Effectiveness Analysis (graduate)	
Module in Cost Effectiveness Analysis (graduate)	
Seminar Health Economic Evaluations (undergraduate)	
Medical University of Vienna	2021
Module in Cost Effectiveness Analysis (graduate)	
Seminar in Public Health on Diversity in Medicine (undergraduate)	
Vienna University of Economics and Business	
Economic and Fiscal Policy (undergraduate)	
Medical University of Vienna	2020
Seminar in Public Health on Diversity in Medicine (undergraduate)	
Vienna University of Economics and Business	
Economic and Fiscal Policy (undergraduate)	

SUPERVISION

PhD theses supervision	ongoing
M Boersig- McPhillips	Regional patterns of mental healthcare utilization and their connection with the local availability of services in Austria: a spatio-temporal investigation
Diploma theses supervision	ongoing
H Bergmann	Die Inanspruchnahme von niedergelassenen Ärzten verschiedener Fachrichtungen in Österreich in Abhängigkeit vom Sozioökonomischen Status
K Dolkemeyer	Zusammenhang zwischen dem Sozioökonomischen Status, Depression und Alkoholkonsum in Österreich
T Felsberger	Zusammenhang zwischen der Inanspruchnahme von Impfungen bei Kindern und Jugendlichen und dem sozioökonomischen Status der Eltern in Österreich
M C Dozler	Gesundheitszustand von Kindern und Jugendlichen im Hinblick auf sozioökonomische Assoziationen in Österreich
I Schöpf	Sozioökonomische Faktoren und Arthrose: Ein Blick auf geschlechtsbezogene Gesundheitsungleichheit in Österreich
T Samek	Soziale Ungleichheiten in der Lebensspanne - Erhebung und Auswertung historischer Daten auf Wiener Friedhöfen
	completed

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Journals	Health Policy • International Journal for Equity in Health • Scientific Reports • Health Economics Review • Bulletin of Economics Research • Empirica • International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
Conferences	International Health Economics Association (IHEA) • European Health Economics Association (EuHEA) • Austrian Health Economics Association (ATHEA)

DOCTORAL COMMITTEES

Autonomous University of Barcelona, Candidate: V Arfuch Prezioso 2023

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Workshop in Project Management, Medical University of Vienna 2022
Workshop in Qualitative Research Methods, Medical University of Vienna 2020

IN THE PRESS

Österreichs Gesundheit im Fokus: Top oder Flop? Interview for *67 Das Magazin der Mitarbeiter*innen des Wiener Gesundheitsverbundes*, October 2024

Wertsache. Interview for *Christophorus Magazin – Zeitung der ÖAMTC-Flugrettung*, September 2023.

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Prof. Simone Ghislandi, PhD	Associate Professor Department of Social and Political Science Bocconi University, Milan Contact: simone.ghislandi@unibocconi.it
Prof. Marcel Bilger, PhD	Professor of Health Economics Head of the Health Economics and Policy Unit Vienna University of Economics and Business Contact: mbilger@wu.ac.at
Prof. Judit Simon, PhD	Professor of Health Economics Head of the Department of Health Economics Medical University of Vienna Contact: judit.simon@muv.ac.at
Dr. Thomas Czypionka	Head of Health Economics and Health Policy Group Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna Contact: czypionk@ihs.ac.at