

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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[Website](#)  
[Google Scholar](#)  
[Researchgate](#)  
[Twitter](#)

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. in Economics and Social Sciences** 03/2017 - 04/2020
- Vienna University of Economics and Business
  - Specialisation in Demography and Economics
  - Dissertation title: *Health measures and healthcare utilisation in ageing populations: Demographic and economic perspectives*
  - Committee: Prof. Wolfgang Lutz, Prof. Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz, Prof. Marcel Bilger, Prof. Alfonso Sousa-Poza
  - **Top grade in every evaluation dimension**
- Master's Degree in Applied Economics** 10/2014 - 08/2016
- Vienna University of Economics and Business
  - Focus on empirical quantitative methods and intergenerational transfers
  - Thesis title: *The division of labour within households: Fractional logit estimates based on the Austrian Time Use Survey*
  - Supervisor: Prof. Jesus Crespo Cuaresma
  - **Ranked top-of-the-class**
- Semester abroad** 07/2015 - 12/2015
- University of Sydney, Australia
  - Focus on labour and public economics, global employment and migration
  - **With distinction**
- Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Socio-Economics** 04/2011 - 09/2014
- Vienna University of Economics and Business
  - Thesis title: *Time is not money: The incomparability of values in economic science using the example of time and money*
  - **Ranked among top 5% of all students**

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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- Multistate Models: Analysis from event histories and panel data**, one week 2020  
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany
- Data visualization - the art/skill cocktail**, one week 2020  
International Advanced Studies in Demography Research Training Program  
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany
- Microsimulation for multidimensional population projections**, half day 2019  
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria
- Demographic analysis with applications to ageing societies**, two weeks 2018  
College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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<b>University of Vienna</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University Assistant (PostDoc), Department of Demography</li></ul>	07/2020 - present
<b>International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Assistant, World Population Programme</li><li>• Project: <i>The demography of sustainable human wellbeing</i> lead by Prof. Wolfgang Lutz (Funding: ERC Advanced Grant)</li></ul>	01/2019 - 06/2020
<b>Vienna Institute of Demography (VID)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Scientist</li><li>• Projects: (i) <i>Age-specific wellbeing- and transfer accounts: Evaluating intergenerational support</i> lead by Prof. Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz (Funding: JPI) and (ii) <i>Heart attacks and socio-economic environment: A spatial analysis of medical outcomes for the City of Vienna</i> lead by Michael Kuhn (Funding: City of Vienna)</li></ul>	03/2017 - 06/2020
<b>International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participant <i>Young Scientist Summer Programme</i>, World Population Programme</li><li>• Project: <i>The reliability of popular health measures when the underlying survey data is not representative</i></li><li>• Supervisors: Sergei Scherbov and Prof. Warren Sanderson</li></ul>	06/2018 - 08/2018
<b>Chamber of Labour for Vienna, Division of Business Economics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Several short-term consultancy contracts between 2014 and 2017</li><li>• Projects: (i) <i>Employment in the Austrian service sector</i> and (ii) <i>Women on boards</i></li></ul>	12/2014 - 02/2017

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH VISITS

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<b>Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany</b> Research on pension adequacy measures based on subjective economic wellbeing, with Christian Dudel and Julian Schmied	10/2018
<b>Paris School of Economics, Paris, France</b> Research on subjective economic wellbeing over the life course, with Prof. Angela Greulich	04/2018

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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<b>Grant from the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research</b> € 4,000 to conduct research on the reliability of popular wellbeing measures during the <i>Young Scientist Summer Programme</i> at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	2018
<b>Scholarship from the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand</b> € 2,500 to attend the workshop <i>Demographic analysis with applications to ageing societies</i> at the College of Population Studies in Bangkok	2018
<b>Merit-based scholarship grant</b> Vienna University of Economics and Business	2016
<b>Foreign Studies Scholarship</b> Scholarship from the Stipendienfond (scholarship fund) Julius Raab to study at the University of Sydney, Australia	2015
<b>Merit-based scholarship grant</b> Vienna University of Economics and Business	2014
<b>Merit-based scholarship grant</b> Vienna University of Economics and Business	2013

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Spitzer S.** (2020): [Biases in health expectancies due to educational differences in survey participation of older Europeans: It's worth weighting for.](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10198-019-01152-0) *The European Journal of Health Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10198-019-01152-0>.

Hammer H., **Spitzer S.**, Vargha L. and Istenic T. (2020): [The gender dimension of intergenerational transfers in Europe.](#) *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, 15(100234).

**Spitzer S.** and Weber D. (2019): [Reporting biases in self-assessed physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans.](#) *PLOS ONE*, 14(10).

### UNDER REVIEW

**Spitzer S.** and Shaikh M.: Health misperception and healthcare utilisation among older Europeans.

**Spitzer S.**, Greulich A. and Hammer B.: The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison.

Lutz W., Striessnig E., Dimitrova A., Ghislandi S., Lijadi A., Reiter C., **Spitzer S.** and Yildiz D.: Years of Good Life (YoGL): A wellbeing indicator designed to serve as sustainability criterion.

Reiter C. and **Spitzer S.**: Wellbeing in Europe: Decompositions by country and gender for the population 50+.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Spitzer S.** and Reiter C. (2020): [Years of Good Life: A novel indicator to measure wellbeing](#), in: European Demographic Datasheet 2020. Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, Vienna.

**Spitzer S.** and Shaikh M. (2020): [Health misperception and healthcare utilisation among older Europeans.](#) *VID Working Paper*, 01/2020.

Hammer H., **Spitzer S.**, Vargha L. and Istenic T. (2019): [The gender dimension of intergenerational transfers in Europe.](#) *VID Working Paper*, 07/2019.

**Spitzer S.** and Weber D. (2019): [Who is telling the truth? Biases in self-reported physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans.](#) *IIASA Working Paper*, WP-19-002.

**Spitzer S.** (2019): [Biases in health expectancies due to educational differences in survey participation of older Europeans: It's worth weighting for.](#) *IIASA Working Paper*, WP-19-003.

**Spitzer S.**, Greulich A. and Hammer B. (2018): [The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison.](#) *VID Working Paper*, 12/2018.

**Spitzer S.** and Hammer B. (2016): [The division of labour within households: Fractional logit estimates based on the Austrian Time Use Survey.](#) *AGENTA Working Paper*, No 4/2016.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

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<b>Poster winner at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting 2019</b> Poster titled <i>The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison</i>	2019
<b>1<sup>st</sup> rank out of 112 in the student ranking (cohort of 2014)</b> Vienna University of Economics and Business, Master's Programme in Economics	2017
<b>Placed in the top 5% of students (cohort of 2011)</b> Vienna University of Economics and Business, Bachelor's Programme in Economics and Socio-Economics	2014

## PRESENTATIONS

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### INVITED LECTURES & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- Socioeconomics Research Seminar, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna, Austria 2020  
*How healthy are you really? Health misperception and healthcare utilisation among older Europeans*
- European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria 2019  
*Who is telling the truth? Biases in self-reported physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans*
- Bildungsverein Offene Gesellschaft, Salzburg, Austria 2019  
*Kinderarmut verstehen (Understanding child poverty)*
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany 2018  
*The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison*
- Gesellschaftspolitisches Diskussionsforum, Vienna, Austria 2017  
*Atypische Beschäftigung: Trends, Fakten, Mythen (Atypical employment: Trends, facts, myths)*

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

- Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association (NOeG), Vienna, Austria 2020  
*Health misperception and healthcare utilisation of older Europeans*
- Wittgenstein Centre Conference, Vienna, Austria 2019  
*Health misperception and healthcare utilisation of older Europeans*
- International Workshop on the Socio-economics of Ageing, Lisbon, Portugal 2019  
*Health misperception and healthcare utilisation of older Europeans*
- International Workshop on the Socio-economics of Ageing, Lisbon, Portugal (talk given by co-author Daniela Weber) 2019  
*Reporting biases in self-assessed physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans*
- 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Health Economics, Lisbon, Portugal (talk given by co-author Mujahed Shaikh) 2019  
*Health misperception and healthcare utilisation of older Europeans*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna, Austria 2019  
*Why don't you tell me the truth? Determinants of biases in health reported by older Europeans*
- 19<sup>th</sup> German-Austrian-Swiss Demographer's Meeting, Vienna, Austria (talk given by co-author Daniela Weber) 2019  
*Langzeiteffekte physischer Gesundheitsschocks auf kognitive Fähigkeiten (Long-term effects of physical health shocks on cognition)*
- Wittgenstein Centre Conference, Vienna, Austria 2018  
*The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison*
- Austrian Health Economics Association PhD Workshop, Vienna, Austria 2018  
*Is it worth weighting for? Health expectancies in Europe based on education-adjusted weights*

7 <sup>th</sup> Young Economists Conference, Vienna, Austria <i>Making ends meet with children: A panel analysis of child costs using EU-SILC data for 30 European countries</i>	2018
British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference, Winchester, UK <i>Is it worth weighting for? Measuring health expectancies in Europe using education-adjusted weights</i>	2018
British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference, Winchester, UK <i>Making ends meet with children: A panel analysis based on EU-SILC Data for 30 European countries</i>	2018
Wittgenstein Centre Workshop on Health and Wellbeing, Vienna, Austria <i>Child cost measures based on subjective economic wellbeing: A European comparison</i>	2018
YSSP Final Colloquium, Laxenburg, Austria <i>Is it worth weighting for? Health expectancies in Europe based on education-adjusted weights</i>	2018
European Population Conference (EPC), Brussels, Belgium (talk given by co-author Bernhard Hammer) <i>The gender dimension of intergenerational transfers in Europe</i>	2018
British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference, Liverpool, UK <i>The Division of labour within households: Fractional logit estimates based on the Austrian Time Use Survey</i>	2017
Young Economists' Meeting, Brno, Czech Republic <i>The division of labour within households: Fractional logit estimates based on the Austrian Time Use Survey</i>	2017

#### POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

Workshop on Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gender Gaps in Health by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Lake Como, Italy <i>Biases in self-reported physical and cognitive health of older Europeans</i>	2019
Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, Austin, USA <i>The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison</i>	2019
Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, Austin, USA <i>Is it worth weighting for? Health expectancies in Europe based on education-adjusted weights</i>	2019
AGENTA Final Conference, Vienna, Austria <i>Economic wellbeing in later life: A European comparison</i>	2017

#### ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

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##### CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

Wittgenstein Centre Conference on <i>Demographic aspects of human wellbeing</i> , Vienna, Austria	2019
Wittgenstein Centre Workshop on Health and Wellbeing, Vienna, Austria	2018
Wittgenstein Centre Colloquium Series, Vienna, Austria	2017-2020
Wittgenstein Centre Internal Seminar Series, Vienna, Austria	2017-2020

## EDITORSHIP

Vienna Yearbook of Population Research

2019-present

## REFeree ACTIVITIES

Social Science & Medicine, Vienna Yearbook of Population Research, Special Report on *Health, Demography, and Climate Change* by the Austrian Panel on Climate Change, 5th Asian Population Association Conference

## TECHNICAL & LANGUAGE SKILLS

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**METHODS:** Econometric methods, demographic methods, survey methods, statistical modelling

**SOFTWARE:** Stata, R, LaTeX, Mendeley, Adobe Cloud, MS Office

**DATA:** EU-SILC, SHARE, SAGE, HRS, World Value Survey, NTA, NTTA, ELSA, European Time Use Survey, Austrian Household Budget Survey, Austrian Microcensus, Austrian Labour Force Survey, Austrian Commercial Register, Health Survey for England, European Census Data etc.

**LANGUAGES:** German (native speaker)  
English (fluent)  
Spanish (intermediate)  
Portuguese (basic knowledge)

## MEDIA COVERAGE & DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

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### MEDIA COVERAGE

*Ältere vertun sich in der Selbsteinschätzung*, [Die Presse](#) 2019  
*Self-reported health: Who can we trust?*, [Nutraingredients.com](#) 2019  
*Who is telling the truth about their health?*, [ScienceDaily](#) 2019  
*Who is telling the truth about their health?*, [MedicalXpress](#) 2019  
*Het beeld van je eigen gezondheid strookt niet altijd met de werkelijkheid*, [Nemokennislink.nl](#) 2019  
*Who is telling the truth about their health?*, [EurekAlert!](#) 2019

### DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

*Make everyone count*, [SHARE Blog](#) (forthcoming) 2020  
*How healthy are you really?*, [SHARE Blog](#) 2020  
*Gender (Im)Balance: Intergenerational transfers over the lifetime for men and women in Europe*, [Population Europe PopDigest](#) 2020  
*It is worth weighting for better health measures*, [Nexus Blog](#) 2020  
*Reporting biases in self-assessed health*, [Generational Economy](#) 2019  
*Who is telling the truth about their health?*, [IIASA News](#) 2019  
*The gender dimension of intergenerational transfers in Europe*, [Generational Economy](#) 2019  
*Children and subjective economic wellbeing: poster award for Sonja Spitzer*, [Generational Economy](#) 2019  
*Endstation Mittleres Management (Final destination middle management)*, [A&W Blog](#) 2017  
*Frauenquote auf österreichisch (Female quota in Austrian)*, [A&W Blog](#) 2015

## MENTORING

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### **Mentor for female economics students**

02/2020 - present

- *VrauWL* mentoring programme
- Advising female economics students on how to develop their career both inside and outside academia

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION PARTNERS

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- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany
- Paris School of Economics, France
- Shanghai University, China
- Hungarian Demographic Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary
- Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- Hertie School Berlin, Germany
- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
- Stony Brook University, New York, United States