

Department of Demography, University of Vienna
 Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital
 +43 (0) 1 51581 7753
sonja.spitzer@univie.ac.at

LINKS:
[Website](#)
[Google Scholar](#)
[Twitter](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health, income, and employment across the life course • Gender differences • Socio-economic disparities •
 • Ageing • Measuring health • Data reliability

RESEARCH POSITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

University of Vienna, Department of Demography • Postdoctoral researcher and lecturer	07/2020 - present
Vienna Yearbook of Population Research • Editor	07/2021 - present
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, World Population Programme • Research assistant	01/2019 - 06/2020
Vienna Institute of Demography, Economic Demography group • Research scientist	03/2017 - 06/2020
Chamber of Labour for Vienna, Division of Business Economics • Several short-term consultancy contracts	12/2014 - 02/2017

EDUCATION

Ph.D. with specialisation in Economics and Demography (with distinction) • Vienna University of Economics and Business • Thesis: <i>Health measures and healthcare utilisation in ageing populations</i> • Supervisors: Prof. Wolfgang Lutz and Prof. Alexia Prskawetz	03/2017 - 04/2020
Master's Degree in Applied Economics (Top of the class) • Vienna University of Economics and Business • Thesis: <i>The division of labour within households</i> • Supervisors: Prof. Jesus Crespo Cuaresma and Bernhard Hammer	10/2014 - 08/2016
Study abroad (with distinction) • University of Sydney, Australia • With distinction	07/2015 - 12/2015
Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Socio-Economics (Top 5% of the class) • Vienna University of Economics and Business	04/2011 - 09/2014

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH VISITS & INVITATIONS

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Okinawa, Japan	2024 (planned)
Hertie School, Berlin, Germany	9/2022
University of Hohenheim, Hohenheim, Germany	5/2022
Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway	10/2021
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany	10/2018
Paris School of Economics, Paris, France	04/2018

AWARDS & HONOURS

Invited Population Europe Expert	2022
Dr. Maria Schaumayer Foundation Award	2021
Emerging Scholar Award at the Aging & Social Change Interdisciplinary Conference	2021
Award for Outstanding Research Achievements from the Vienna University of Economics and Business	2020
Honourable mention at the AK Science Award on <i>Challenges in public healthcare and long-term care</i>	2020
Top 10% most cited papers in PLOS ONE for the publication <i>Reporting biases in self-assessed physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans</i>	2019
Poster winner at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting Poster titled <i>The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison</i>	2019
1st rank out of 112 in the student ranking Vienna University of Economics and Business, Master's Programme in Economics	2017

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Data:Research:Austria Grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences <i>Skill loss during parental leave and its role for gender disparities in earnings</i> € 334,228, PI	2024 - 2026
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellowship <i>Age at cardiovascular health shocks, survival, and labour market outcomes</i>	2024
Kaiserschild Advance Grant <i>The effect of parenthood on human capital and income trajectories over the life course</i> € 9,600, Co-PI	2023 - 2024
Mobility grant for Ph.D. candidates from the Vienna University of Economics and Business to visit the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany	2020
Austrian Ministry of Education, Science, and Research € 4,000 to conduct research on the reliability of popular health measures during the <i>Young Scientist Summer Programme</i> at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	2018
Scholarship from the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand € 2,500 to attend the workshop <i>Demographic analysis with applications to ageing societies</i> at the College of Population Studies in Bangkok, Thailand	2018
Merit-based scholarship grant Vienna University of Economics and Business	2016
Foreign Studies Scholarship Julius Raab Scholarship to study at the University of Sydney, Australia	2015
Merit-based scholarship grant Vienna University of Economics and Business	2014
Merit-based scholarship grant Vienna University of Economics and Business	2013

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)

11. **Spitzer S.** and Shaikh M. (2022): [Health misperception and healthcare utilisation among older Europeans](#), *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing*
10. **Spitzer S.**, Shaikh M., and Weber D. (2022): [Older Europeans' health perception and their adaptive behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), *European Journal of Public Health*
9. **Spitzer S.**, Greulich A., and Hammer B. (2022): [The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison](#), *Social Indicator Research*
8. **Spitzer S.**, Di Lego V., Kuhn M., Roth C., and Berger C. (2022): [Socio-economic environment and survival in patients after ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction \(STEMI\): A longitudinal study for the City of Vienna](#), *BMJ Open*
7. Scherbov S., **Spitzer S.**, and Steiber N. (2022): [Thresholds for clinical practice that directly link handgrip strength to remaining years of life: Estimates based on longitudinal observational data](#), *BMJ Open*
6. Lutz W., Striessnig E., Dimitrova A., Ghislandi S., Lijadi A., Reiter C., **Spitzer S.**, and Yildiz D. (2021): [Years of good life is a well-being indicator designed to serve research on sustainability](#), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*
5. Hammer, B., **Spitzer S.**, and Prskawetz, A. (2021): [Age-specific income trends in Europe: The role of employment, wages, and social transfers](#), *Social Indicator Research*
4. **Spitzer S.** (2020): [Biases in health expectancies due to educational differences in survey participation of older Europeans: It's worth weighting for](#), *The European Journal of Health Economics*
3. 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*
2. Reiter C. and **Spitzer S.** (2020): [Wellbeing in Europe: Decompositions by country and gender for the population 50+](#), *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research*
1. **Spitzer S.** and Weber D. (2019): [Reporting biases in self-assessed physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans](#), *PLOS ONE*

BOOK CHAPTERS (PEER-REVIEWED)

Spitzer S. and Reiter C. (2024): Demographic change, health care, and long-term care. In: Getzner M., Plank L., and Renner A.-T. (Eds.), *Handbook of Social Infrastructure*. Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming

POLICY REPORTS

Spitzer S., Hammer B., and Reiter C. (2023): [Intergenerational inequalities: How to close the gaps?](#), *Eurofound Policy Brief*

Spitzer S. and Wieser C. (2017): [Women on boards \(Frauen.Management.Report – Aufsichtsrat, Geschäftsführung und Prokura\)](#), *Chamber of Labour Report*

Spitzer S. and Wieser C. (2015): [Women on boards \(Frauen.Management.Report – Frauen in Geschäftsführung und Aufsichtsrat der Top 200 Börsennotierten Unternehmen\)](#), *Chamber of Labour Report*

EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES

Spitzer S., Di Lego V., Greulich A., and Muttarak R. (Eds.) (2021): [Demographic aspects of human wellbeing](#), *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research*

WORKING PAPERS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Renner A.-T., Shaikh M, and **Spitzer S.** (2023): [The long-term impact of maternal leave duration on smoking behavior](#), *MPRA Working Paper*

Spitzer S., Hammer B., and Reiter C. (2023): [Intergenerational income dynamics in Europe: Past trends and current challenges](#), *Eurofound Working Paper*

Spitzer S. (2022): [How healthy are you really? Cross-country comparisons of wellbeing with survey data](#), Contribution to the *Population-Environment Research Network (PERN) Cyberseminar*

Hammer B., **Spitzer S.** and Prskawetz A. (2022): [Income disparities between young and old Europeans: The role of employment, wages, and pensions](#). In: *European Demographic Datasheet 2022*. Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital

Spitzer S., Di Lego V., Greulich A., and Muttarak R. (2020): [A demographic perspective on human wellbeing: Concepts, measurement and population heterogeneity](#), Introduction to the *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research*

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

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

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*

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

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*

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

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*

MEDIA COVERAGE & DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

2023 [BABY & JOB](#)

[Der Falter](#) • [Daily Mail](#) • [Hindustan Times](#) • [Radio Ö1](#) • [Die Presse](#) • [Der Standard](#) • [Kronen Zeitung](#) • [ORF ZIB Magazin \(TV Interview\)](#) • [Ö1 Mittagsjournal](#) • [Tiroler Tageszeitung](#) • [Heute](#) • [Gazzetta](#) • [Poradnik Zdrowie](#) • [Femme Actuelle](#) • [ÖAW SciencePop](#) • [ORFat](#) • [Kurier](#) • [Salzburger Nachrichten](#) • [Puls24](#) • [Wiener Zeitung](#) • [Der Standard](#) • [PopDigests](#) • [Mein Bezirk](#) • [Voice Philly](#) • [Kurier](#) • [APA](#) • [Portal Hospital Brasil VOL.at](#) • [Radio Wien Stadtjournal](#) • [ORFat](#) • [New Business](#) • [Vienna.at](#) • [Kronen Zeitung](#) • [Newsweek](#) • [News18](#) • [ScienceDaily](#) • [Studium.at](#) • [IIASA News](#) • [WIC Fact Sheet](#) • [The Hill](#) • [European Demographic Data Sheet](#) • [Kurier](#) • [SciTechDaily](#) • [Hello Zdrowie](#) • [Clarín](#) • [Mediafax](#) • [News Medical](#) • [Mdienoticias](#) • [Irytas](#) • [Mint Lounge](#) • [Deine Apotheke](#) • [Wiener Zeitung](#) • [ygeia mou](#) • [Kurier](#) • [medinlive.at](#) • [Zeitung der Arbeit](#) • [MedMedia](#) • [Dolomiten](#) • [Der Standard](#) • [Ö1 Nachrichtenjournal](#)

2021 [OEAW ScienceBites Video](#) • [Kurier](#) • [European Researchers' Night](#)

2020 [Wiener Zeitung](#) • [Population Europe PopDigest](#) • [Nexus Blog](#)

2019 [Die Presse](#) • [Nutraingredients.com](#) • [ScienceDaily](#) • [MedicalXpress](#) • [Generational Economy](#) • [IIASA News](#) • [Generational Economy](#) • [Nemokennislink.nl](#)

TEACHING, MENTORING & SUPERVISION

Teaching at the University of Vienna (four courses per academic year)	2021 - present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human capital and economic demography (Master level)• Mortality, health, and ageing (Master level, with Marc Luy)• Advanced quantitative data analysis and microeconometrics (Master level)• Scientific working (Master level, with Ester Lazzari and Nicholas Gailey)• Statistics for social scientists II (Master level)	
Teaching at the Austrian Academy of Sciences	2022
<i>Where do demographers get their data from?</i> (3-hour workshop with Dilek Yildiz and Claudia Reiter)	
Supervision of PhD theses	
<i>The causal effect of schooling on obesity and diabetes in low- and middle-income countries</i>	2022
Lili Liwin, Co-supervision with Daniela Weber during the Young Scientist Summer Programme of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	
Supervision of Master theses	
<i>The effect of maternity leave duration on retirement income : A European analysis using SHARE</i>	2024
Nina Marie Dippold	
<i>The impact of 'dirty' cooking on child mortality</i>	2022
Isabell Roitner-Fransecky	
Mentor of economics students	2020 - 2021
VrauWL mentoring programme for female economics students	

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

<i>Parental leave and smoking behaviour: Causal evidence from 14 European countries</i>	2022
Research Seminar in Economics, University of Hohenheim, Hohenheim, Germany	
<i>Leave duration after childbirth and smoking behaviour in later life</i>	2022
Centre for Regional Development and Planning (CEDEPLAR) Seminar Series, Department of Demography, Faculty of Economics, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil (online)	
<i>Biased health perception and health behaviour: An overview of Europe and China</i>	2021
Department of Economic Seminar, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway	
<i>Women in leadership in a COVID-19 world</i>	2021
500 Women Scientists, IIASA, Laxenburg, Austria (online)	
<i>How healthy are you really? Health misperception and healthcare utilisation among older Europeans</i>	2020
Socio-economics Research Seminar, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna, Austria (online)	
<i>Who is telling the truth? Biases in self-reported physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans</i>	2019
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria	
<i>Understanding child poverty (Kinderarmut verstehen)</i>	2019
Bildungsverein Offene Gesellschaft, Salzburg, Austria	
<i>The subjective cost of young children: A European comparison</i>	2018
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany	
<i>Atypical employment: Trends, facts, myths (Atypische Beschäftigung: Trends, Fakten, Mythen)</i>	2017
Gesellschaftspolitisches Diskussionsforum, Vienna, Austria	

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2023	American-European Health Economics Study Group, Boston, US • IHEA, Cape Town, South Africa
2022	European Health Association Conference, Oslo, Norway • Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, US
2021	International Population Conference, Hyderabad, India (online) • Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association (NOeG), Innsbruck, Austria (online) • Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna, Austria • Population Association of America Annual Meeting, St. Louis, US (online)
2020	Global Meeting on Population and the Generational Economy, Honolulu, US (online) • European Population Conference 2020, Padova, Italy (cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic) • European Health Economics Association 2020 Student-Supervisor Conference, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (online) • Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association (NOeG), Vienna, Austria
2019	International Workshop on the Socio-economics of Ageing, Lisbon, Portugal • Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, US • Wittgenstein Centre Conference, Vienna, Austria • National Conference on Health Economics, Lisbon, Portugal (talk by co-author Mujaheed Shaikh) • German-Austrian-Swiss Demographer's Meeting, Vienna, Austria (talk by co-author Daniela Weber) • Austrian Health Economics Association Conference, Vienna, Austria
2018	British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference, Winchester, UK • European Population Conference, Brussels, Belgium (talk by co-author Bernhard Hammer) • Austrian Health Economics Association PhD Workshop, Vienna, Austria • Wittgenstein Centre Conference, Vienna, Austria • YSSP Final Colloquium, Laxenburg, Austria • Wittgenstein Centre Workshop on Health and Wellbeing, Vienna, Austria • Young Economists Conference, Vienna, Austria
2017	British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference, Liverpool, UK • Wittgenstein Centre Conference, Vienna, Austria • Young Economists' Meeting, Brno, Czechia

ACADEMIC SERVICES & INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Expert advisor for the Austrian Socio-Economic Panel survey	2022 - present
Editor of the Vienna Yearbook of Population Research	2021 - present
Selection Committee for the Master programme "Global Demography"	2021 - 2023
Co-Organiser of the Demography PhD Club at the University of Vienna	2021 - 2022
Development of the curriculum for the Master programme "Global Demography" in collaboration with the teaching team	2020 - 2021
Guest Editor of the Vienna Yearbook of Population Research	2021
Coordinator of the Wittgenstein Centre Colloquium Series	2017 - 2020
Coordinator of the Wittgenstein Centre Conference on <i>Demographic aspects of human wellbeing</i>	2019
Organiser of the Wittgenstein Centre Workshop on Health and Wellbeing	2018

REFEREE ACTIVITIES

Demography • Health Economics • Social Science & Medicine • Ageing & Society • Vienna Yearbook of Population Research • Special Report on *Health, Demography, and Climate Change* by the Austrian Panel on Climate Change • European Health Economics Association conference on *Opening up perspectives on health economics* • 5th Asian Population Association Conference • Wittgenstein Centre Conference on *Demographic aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences* • Fondazione Cariplo Funding Programme • Best Paper Award of the Young Scientist Summer Programme at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis