Felix C. L. Mergenhagen

DIW Profile — Google Scholar — TU Berlin Profile

DIW Berlin
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Economic and Infrastructure Policy
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Research Interests

Energy (Access) Economics; Network Flow Problems, Environmental Economics

Education

PhD: German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) Berlin, Germany
Oct 2025 – 2030

In Economics. DIW Department of Energy, Transportation & Environment. Qualification phase at the Berlin School of Economics (BSoE); degree awarded by TU Berlin. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Christian von Hirschhausen. Dissertation: *Essays in Energy Economics.*

M.Sc.: Duke University Durham, USA & Kunshan, China
Sep 2023 – May 2025

In Environmental Policy (GPA: 3.9; Economics Track). Relevant coursework includes Environmental Economics, Mathematics, and Energy related classes.
Master's Thesis: *Least-Cost Energy Access Modeling in Antongil Bay, Madagascar* (in collaboration with GIZ; one month of fieldwork in Madagascar).

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris, France
Jan 2023 – Aug 2023

Graduate coursework in Environmental and Political Economics (GPA: 3.7). Partly completed in French. No Degree.

B.Sc: University of Hamburg Hamburg, Germany
Oct 2019 – Dec 2022

In Economics. Focus on Environmental Economics and Economics of Climate Change. Elected Student Representative, Faculty Council & Orientation Week Tutor and Co-Organizer. Semester abroad at Hawaii Pacific Univ.
Bachelor's Thesis: *Distributional Effects of Carbon Pricing and Targeted Correction Mechanisms (2021).*

Research Experience

Affiliated Researcher Aug 2024 – April 2025
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Madagascar. Applied research within

the *Promotion de l'Electrification Rurale par les Énergies Renouvelables (PERER)* project. Development of a new least-cost electrification model (grid extension, mini-grids, solar home systems) and analysis of infrastructure and supply-chain constraints affecting energy access for approximately 200,000 residents in Antongil Bay.

Energy Access Research Environment 2024 – ongoing

Research engagement with the James E. Rogers Energy Access Project, participation in Duke-hosted conferences (*From Billions to Trillions*, *Energy Week at Duke*). Academic exchange with the TUM SEED Center (Prof. Frank Martin Belz) and the TU Berlin MicroEnergy System Research Group.

Research Assistant Intern Jun 2022

Team Alexander Mohrenberg, Hamburg Senate. Policy-oriented research on climate, energy, and environmental regulation supporting regional decision-making.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant Aug 2024 – Dec 2024

Environmental Economics I (ENVIRON 806K, Graduate level), Duke University. Delivered lectures and graded homework & midterms.

Publications & Working Papers

Working Paper

Mind the Income Gap: How Public Transit Shapes Labor Market Inequality (2025). Available at SSRN: Click here!

Master's Thesis

Least-Cost Energy Access Modeling in Antongil Bay, Madagascar. Duke University, 2025. Click here!

Conference Presentations

International Smart Energy System Conference in Aalborg, Sep 2026. Click here!

Berlin Network of Labor Research (BENA) Winter Workshop, Nov 2025. Click here!

Scholarships & Awards

German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin): PhD Scholarship	>€20,000
Duke University Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence	>$25,000
Friedrich Ebert Foundation Scholarship (Merit- and Engagement-Based)	>€75,000
Guo Tingting Field Research Scholarship (Master's Thesis)	$1,500
Erasmus+ Scholarship (Paris)	>€2,500
Hawaii Pacific University Visiting Student Scholarship	$7,500

Summer Schools

Energy Policy Research Group Spring Seminar, University of Cambridge	May 2026
Summer School on Sustainable Energy Systems and Markets, Mines Paris	June 2026
Infratrain, Technical University Berlin	Sep 2026
PhD Winter School in Economics of Energy and Environment, Centrale Supélec	Dec 2026

Non-Academic Professional Experience

PD – Berater der öffentlichen Hand GmbH, Berlin Germany, Consulting Intern (May–Aug 2024). Worked on public-sector strategy projects on Open Source Software, including research, workshop co-moderation, and presentations.

Energy Innovation Capital, Orinda CA USA, Venture Capital Research Intern (Dec 2023–Mar 2024). Conducted sector-wide screening of energy startups and applied data analysis to support investment decisions.

HSBC, Düsseldorf Germany, Inhouse Consulting Intern (May–Oct 2023). Supported risk and compliance projects through data analysis.

Skills

Programming & Data Skills: Python, Julia, QGIS, PyPSA
Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (B2), Chinese (A1)
Competitions: Ice Hockey (Youth Bundesliga); Inline Hockey (Former National Team), Model United Nations (Best Delegate: Paris 2022, Tangier 2021; Chair & Organization Committee: Hamburg 2019, Tel Aviv 2023)