

# CV Richard Bräuer

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## Research Interests

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Growth, Innovation, Macroeconomics, Labor Markets, Theory of the Firm, Trade

## Academic Career

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### Postdoctoral Researcher

2021-2025

Research Group „Long-term effects of privatisation in eastern Germany“, funded through the Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award 2019 to Ufuk Akcigit

### PhD in Economics

2015-2021

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH), “Firm Level Drivers of Productivity Growth”, supervisor Eric J. Bartelsman

### Scientific Staff

2016-2019

Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet), European data collection, development of workshops

### M.A. in Economics and History

2007-2014

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

## References

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**Prof. Ufuk Akcigit**  
University of Chicago  
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**Prof. Andrei Markevich**  
University of Helsinki  
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**Prof. Javier Miranda**  
University of Jena  
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## Job Market Paper

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### The Aggregate Effects of Incumbent Firms Preventing Disruptive Innovation

This paper proposes to explain the productivity growth slowdown with firms consciously preventing disruptive innovation. I build an endogenous growth model with incremental and disruptive inventions and an inventor labor market where firms poach disruptive inventors to protect established technologies. I calibrate this model to the global patent landscape in 1990 and show that it predicts 52% of the decline of disruptive innovation until 2010. I confirm critical assumptions with an event study: Disruptions increase future research productivity, hurt incumbent inventors and raise the probability of future disruption. Without disruption, technology classes trend further towards incrementalism.

## Publications

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- Trade shocks, labour markets and migration in the First Globalisation, The Economic Journal 2024 (w/ Felix Kersting); ([link to paper](#))
- Import competition and firm productivity: Evidence from German manufacturing, The World Economy 2023 (w/ Matthias Mertens, Viktor Slavtchev); ([link to paper](#))

## Working Papers

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### **Firm Dynamics and Economic Growth in Planned vs. Market Economies**

How important is creative destruction for economic growth? We address this question investigating economic productivity and firm dynamics in planned economies where the role of Schumpeterian forces is restricted by design. Using novel industrial-firm-level data from Soviet Russia and East Germany in the late 1970s and 1980s, we compare these economies against their market counterparts such as the US and West Germany. We document little response to productivity changes, with few firms entering or exiting in the former communist countries. Through counterfactual simulations, we conclude that enhancing responsiveness to productivity shocks and increasing the rates of entry and exit to the US levels could have boosted growth by about 2.3% per year. This increase in growth would have covered the larger part of the economic gap between Eastern European and Western economies observed in the last decade before the fall of the Iron Curtain. ([link](#))

### **Labor market power and innovation**

We document that firms possess high labor market power (LMP) across structurally weak European regions. We study the effect of LMP on firms' innovation decisions and aggregate growth. Theoretically, LMP has a nonlinear relationship with R&D: Higher profits incentivize entry and innovation of very small firms, but medium and large firms are disincentivized to innovate, since they have to pay higher wages if they grow further. To test this prediction empirically, we estimate LMP across German manufacturing firms and replicate the predicted innovation pattern. High and low LMP firms behave similarly after controlling for LMP. We build an endogenous growth model to understand the size of this effect relative to the overall innovation and productivity gap between East and West Germany. ([link](#))

### **Matching on the Global Inventor Firm Labor Market**

I analyze the matching of firms and inventors and the patent (citation) arrival rate of the resulting matches as a potential driver of slowing technology growth. I document a global trend towards increased assortative matching and declining inventor mobility to low productivity firms despite a largely constant patent invention function. To arrive at these results, I further develop empirical strategies used in the search and matching labor market literature to account for inventor teams and adapt these estimators to the peculiarities of the PATSTAT patent data from 1974-2012, which I use as an employer-employee data set. ([link](#))

## **When Aggregation is Necessary, is it Necessarily Bad? A practitioner's guide to estimation and inference across confidential micro datasets**

We present an algorithm for linear GMM estimation which works even if the researcher cannot combine the underlying data into one data set. We discuss three different applications: First, a regression where X- and Y- variables are in different data sets. Second, a regression where observations are in different data sets. Third, a regression where the complete data is so large as to be unwieldy. We demonstrate these use cases by studying the effects of German R&D subsidies without merging patent and firm data, estimating a Europe-wide production function without merging the firm level data sets of different EU countries and by documenting the speed performance of our code in simulated data. The main requirement of this method is that instruments and exogenous regressors have to be present in all data sets. ([link](#))

## **Work in Progress**

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- The Fate of GDR Inventors after Unification (w/ Ufuk Akcigit)

## **Teaching experience**

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- TA for Tinbergen Summer School on "Productivity, Trade and Growth" (2017-2019)
- Together with Dr. Matthias Mertens, I conceptualized and gave a seminar on recent developments and questions in productivity estimation, use of micro-data for macro questions and the various firm level data sets available (2017), at the European Commission, amongst others.
- Teaching assistant in microeconomics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich with an average evaluation grade of 1,57 (October 2011-March 2013)

## **Additional Information**

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- Referee for: *The Economic Journal*, Spring Meeting of Young Economists
- Recent presentations: EEA 2024, EALE 2024, DRUID 2024, CompNet 2024, IAAE 2024, VfS 2024. AEA 2024/25 (planned)
- Languages: German (mother tongue), English (fluent), Spanish (A2)