

# Felix Geisthardt

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## Academic Profile

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Research assistant with experience in large-scale data infrastructure (EU Horizon) and quantitative research. Organizing PhD socioeconomics research seminar series at WU Vienna. Interests include spatial econometrics, distributional policy analysis, machine learning applications

## Education

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**Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)** 2023–Present

*BSc in Economics-Environment-Politics*

- **Rector's List Awardee:** Ranked top 1% (Winter Term 2024/25) for academic excellence.
- **56 ECTS** completed in one semester (avg. 1.32)
- **Merit scholarship for academic year 2024/25**
- **Relevant Coursework:** Climate Economics, Policy & Justice, Empirical Research Methods, Applied Research Workshop.
- **Accelerated Graduation Track:** On pace to complete degree in 5 semesters.

**Friedrich List School, Wiesbaden, Germany** 2020–2023

*Abitur* (Grade: 1.6)

Advanced Courses: Economics, Data Processing

## Academic Positions

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**Research Assistant** September 2025 – Present

Global Resource Use Group

Institute for Ecological Economics

Vienna University of Economics and Business

- Research Assistant on EU Horizon Project RAWCLIC

**Research Seminar Organizing** September 2025 – Present

Institute of Political Economy of Public Policy

Vienna University of Economics and Business

- Co-organizing socioeconomic research seminar series
- Contact person for PhD students and invited speakers
- Attending and contributing to seminar discussions

## Research Experience

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### RAWCLIC

- Contributing to the development of a large-scale open-access database on water-related impacts of global mining activities as part of the EU HORIZON Project RAWCLIC (Developing knowledge on the future raw materials demand, supply and associated environmental impacts induced by the twin transition in the EU).
- Contributions include data collection, data management and quality assurance, and structuring of the database.

- The database serves as the foundation for a machine learning model being developed at the Institute for Ecological Economics at WU Vienna, designed to fill gaps where water data is not reported to improve the understanding of water usage patterns in the mining sector.

## Ongoing Research Projects

2024–Present

### Unequal Coal Mining Displacements, insights from NRW Germany

- Conceptualized and currently conducting a quantitative study on the socio-economic drivers of inequality in displacement processes managed by RWE in Germany.
- Analyzing and visualizing complex correlations using **R (tidyverse, ggplot2)**.
- Addressing real-world data challenges by applying robust statistical methods, including the comparative use of Pearson and Spearman correlations for outlier analysis and applying power analysis to contextualize results from limited datasets.
- Developed and applied a proxy variable for socio-economic status, average household size to overcome data unavailability, enabling analysis that would otherwise be impossible.
- Found strong statistical significance for average household size against year of displacement
- Robustness checks ongoing, further analysis in progress.

### Distributional Effects of EV Subsidies (BA Thesis)

- Spatial analysis examining whether German e-mobility infrastructure systematically favors high-income areas.
- Combines 1x1km socioeconomic grids and 5x5km EV share grid cell data with geocoded charging infrastructure data (170k+ charging points) to trace EV development under fixed-amount subsidies.
- Uses the abrupt termination of federal EV subsidies in December 2023 to test whether infrastructure expansion follows demand from subsidized early adopters.

## Technical Skills

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- **Data Processing:** R, Excel, Python, QGIS (basic), SQL (basic)
- **Research Tools:** Zotero, Overleaf, Scopus
- **Languages:** German (Native), English (Fluent; academic writing).
- **Software:** MS Office Suite (Advanced)

## Referees

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### Univ.Prof. Dr. Thomas Plümper

Head of Department of Socioeconomics

Vienna University of Business and Economics

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### Ass. Prof. Dr. Klara Zwickl

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