

Roland Hodler

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Personal information

Born in Bern, Switzerland, 1975. Australian and Swiss citizen.

Positions

Professor, Department of Economics and SIAW-HSG, University of St.Gallen, since 2014.

Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, University of Gothenburg, 2015–2016.

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Lucerne, 2011–2014.

Program Manager Doctoral Courses, Study Center Gerzensee, 2010–2011.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, 2009–2010.

Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, 2007–2009.

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Department of Economics, University of Bern, 2005–2006.

Visiting Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, Harvard University, 2004–2005.

Visiting positions (1–3 months): WZB Berlin, 2018; Monash University, 2012, 2018; LMU/CES Munich, 2012, 2015; University of Melbourne, 2014; University of Oxford, 2010.

Affiliations

Founding Member, Development Economics Network Switzerland, since 2017.

Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), since 2016.

Affiliate, Centre for Development and Sustainability, Monash University, since 2016.

Member, Development Economics Group, German Economic Association, since 2014.

Research Fellow, CESifo Network, since 2012.

External Research Associate, OxCarre, University of Oxford, since 2009.

Education

PhD in Economics (Dr.rer.oec.), University of Bern, 2004.

Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students, Study Center Gerzensee, 2002.

Master in Economics (lic.rer.pol.), University of Bern, 2000.

Awards, honors and major grants

Discovery Projects Grant [DP150100061](#), Australian Research Council, 2015–2019.

Keynote Lecture, CESifo Workshop on Political Economy, 2016.

Basic Research Grant, University of St.Gallen, 2015–2016.

Excellence Award for Policy-Relevant Development Research, KfW Development Bank, 2014.

Discovery Projects Grant [DP120103492](#), Australian Research Council, 2012–2014.

Certificates of Excellent Undergraduate Teaching, University of Melbourne, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Dean’s Outstanding Lecturer Award, University of Melbourne, 2008.

Fellowship for Prospective Researchers, Swiss National Science Foundation, 2004–2005.

Knut-Wicksell Prize, European Public Choice Society, 2004.

Selected journal articles

G. De Luca, R. Hodler, P.A. Raschky and M. Valsecchi, “Ethnic favoritism: An axiom of politics?” *Journal of Development Economics*, 2018.

R. Hodler, S. Luechinger and A. Stutzer, “The effects of voting costs on the democratic process and public finances,” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2015.
→ Media coverage: Basler Zeitung, Swissinfo.

R. Hodler and P.A. Raschky, “Regional favoritism,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2014.
→ Media coverage: CBS, France 24, Huffington Post, La Razón, NBC, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Quartz, Wired.
→ Listed in: *QJE* highly cited articles published in 2014.

R. Hodler and A. Dreher, “Development (paradigm) failures,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 2013.

R. Hodler and H. Yektaş, “All-pay war,” *Games and Economic Behavior*, 2012.

R. Hodler, S. Loertscher and D. Rohner, “Inefficient policies and incumbency advantage,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 2010.

S. Bhattacharyya and R. Hodler, “Natural resources, democracy and corruption,” *European Economic Review*, 2010.
→ Listed in: Ten most cited *EER* articles published in the last five years, 2014, 2015.

R. Hodler, “Industrial policy in an imperfect world,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 2009.

R. Hodler, “The curse of natural resources in fractionalized countries,” *European Economic Review*, 2006.
→ Listed in: Ten most cited *EER* articles published in the last five years, 2010, 2011.
→ Reprinted in: F. van der Ploeg and A.J. Venables, *The Economics of Resource Rich Economies*, Edward Elgar, 2015.

Other journal articles

- R. Hodler, "The economic effects of genocide: Evidence from Rwanda," *Journal of African Economies*, forthcoming.
- A. Bruederle and R. Hodler, "Nighttime lights as a proxy for human development at the local level," *PLoS One*, 2018.
- R. Hodler, "The political economics of the Arab Spring," *Economic Inquiry*, 2018.
- R. Hodler and P.A. Raschky, "Ethnic politics and the diffusion of mobile technology in Africa," *Economics Letters*, 2017.
- S. Bhattacharyya and R. Hodler, "Media freedom and democracy in the fight against corruption," *European Journal of Political Economy*, 2015.
- S. Bhattacharyya and R. Hodler, "Do natural resource revenues hinder financial development? The role of political institutions," *World Development*, 2014.
- R. Hodler and P.A. Raschky, "Economic shocks and civil conflict at the regional level," *Economics Letters*, 2014.
- R. Hodler, S. Loertscher and D. Rohner, "Persuasion, binary choice, and the costs of dishonesty," *Economics Letters*, 2014.
- R. Hodler and D. Rohner, "Electoral terms and terrorism," *Public Choice*, 2012.
- R. Hodler and D.S. Knight, "Ethnic fractionalisation and aid effectiveness," *Journal of African Economies*, 2012.
- R. Hodler, "Elections and the strategic use of budget deficits," *Public Choice*, 2011.
- R. Hodler, "Institutions, trade and the political economy of financial development," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 2011.
- R.M. Fum and R. Hodler, "Natural resources and income inequality: The role of ethnic divisions," *Economics Letters*, 2010.
- R. Hodler, "Redistribution and inequality in a heterogeneous society," *Economica*, 2009.
- R. Hodler, "Leisure and redistribution," *European Journal of Political Economy*, 2008.
- N. Herger, R. Hodler and M. Lobsiger, "What determines financial development? Culture, institutions or trade," *Review of World Economics*, 2008.
- R. Hodler, "Specialization and welfare in the presence of imperfectly integrated capital markets and learning-by-doing," *Open Economies Review*, 2008.
- R. Hodler, "For the student: Political economics" (by invitation), *Australian Economic Review*, 2008.
- R. Hodler, "Rent seeking and aid effectiveness," *International Tax and Public Finance*, 2007.
- R. Hodler and K. Schmidheiny, "How fiscal decentralization flattens progressive taxes," *Finanz-Archiv*, 2006.

Recent working papers

K. Ackermann, S. Angus, R. Hodler and P.A. Raschky, “Internet and protests,” Mimeo presented at the NBER Summer Institute on IT and Digitization, 2018.

R. Hodler, S. Srisuma, A. Vesperoni and N. Zurlinden, “Measuring ethnic stratification and its effects on trust in Africa,” Mimeo presented at various workshops, 2018.

R.C. Bayer, R. Hodler, P.A. Raschky and A. Strittmatter, “Expropriations, property confiscations and new offshore entities: Evidence from the Panama Papers,” Working Paper, 2018.

R. Hodler, P.A. Raschky and A. Strittmatter, “Religiosity and terrorism: Evidence from Ramadan fasting,” CEPR Discussion Paper 13257, 2018.

A. Amarasinghe, R. Hodler, P.A. Raschky and Y. Zenou, “Spatial diffusion of economic shocks in networks,” CEPR Discussion Paper 12854, 2018.

R. Hodler, M. Valsecchi and A. Vesperoni, “Ethnic geography: Measurement and evidence,” CEPR Discussion Paper 12378, 2017.

A. Bruederle and R. Hodler, “The effect of oil spills on infant mortality: Evidence from Nigeria,” CESifo Working Paper 6653, 2017.

→ Media coverage: BBC, CBC Radio, Daily Monitor, Daily Times of Nigeria, Deutsche Welle, El País, France Info, Guardian, Guardian Nigeria, Le Monde, National Daily Nigeria, Newsweek, This Day, Voice of America.

→ Mentions by NGOs: Amnesty International, Global Citizen, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People.

A. Dreher, A. Fuchs, R. Hodler, B.C. Parks, P.A. Raschky and M.J. Tierney, “Aid on demand: African leaders and the geography of China’s foreign assistance,” CEPR Discussion Paper 10704, 2015.

→ Media coverage: ABS, BBC, Economist, Financial Times, Guardian, L’Agefi, National Interest, Radio Taiwan International, Reuters, Sun, Washington Post, World Finance.

→ Revision requested by the *Journal of Development Economics*.

F. Hentschel, R. Hodler and H. Yektaş, “Wars of conquest and independence,” University of St.Gallen Discussion Paper, 2015.

→ Revision requested by the *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*.

Policy report

S. Evenett, R. Föllmi, R. Hodler, P. Lukaszuk and P. Widmer, “Ein- und Ausfuhren und die Frage nach Umgehungsgeschäften im Fall Russland/Ukraine,” Parlamentarische Verwaltungskontrolle, Swiss Parliament, 2017.

→ Media coverage: Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

Media contributions

R. Hodler and U. Matter, “Transparenzinitiative: Wie viel sollen Wähler wissen?” Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 2018.

R. Hodler, “Nigeria oil spills double risk of infant mortality” (interview), Voice of America, 2017.

R. Hodler, “Study links oil spills to increased rate of infant mortality in Niger Delta” (interview), CBC Radio, 2017.

B.C. Parks, R. Hodler, A. Dreher, A. Fuchs, P.A. Raschky and M.J. Tierney, “Chinese aid is helping African economies, but not in the places that need it most,” Washington Post, 2016.

G. De Luca, R. Hodler, P.A. Raschky and M. Valsecchi, “Ethnic favouritism: Not just an African phenomenon,” VoxEU, 2016.

R. Hodler, “Flat Tax: Weder Individuen noch Paare bestrafen,” Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 2016.

R. Hodler, “Why African leaders like Chinese aid,” World Finance, 2016.

A. Dreher, A. Fuchs, R. Hodler, B.C. Parks, P.A. Raschky and M.J. Tierney, “Are African leaders misusing Chinese development finance? The price of country ownership,” IGC Blog, 2015.

R. Hodler, “Making it easier to vote may backfire” (interview), Swissinfo, 2014. Translated versions: French, German, Italian.

R. Hodler and P.A. Raschky, “Regional favouritism across the world,” VoxEU, 2014.

R. Hodler and J. Röllin, “Mit Transparenz gegen den Ressourcenfluch,” Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 2013.

S. Bhattacharyya and R. Hodler, “Natural resources and corruption: Is democracy the missing link?” VoxEU, 2009.

R. Hodler and S. Ryser, “Menschenrechtsverletzungen werden in der Entwicklungshilfe belohnt: Ein quantitativer Blick auf die Schweizer Entwicklungszusammenarbeit von 1980 bis 2004,” Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 2007.

Presentations

Annual meetings: Development Economics Network Switzerland (2017, 2018), Econometric Society (2007, 2009, 2015, 2018), European Economic Association (2004, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2016, 2018), German Development Economics Conference (2006, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018), Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (2004, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2018), CESifo Workshop on Political Economy (2016), CESifo Conference on Public Sector Economics (2015), Silvaplane Workshop in Political Economy (2006, 2010, 2013), European Public Choice Society (2004, 2005, 2013), International Institute of Public Finance (2012), German Economic Association (2010), Australasian Economic Theory Workshop (2010), Nordic Conference in Development Economics (2008), Australasian Development Economics Workshop (2007, 2008), Australasian Trade Workshop (2007), Royal Economic Society (2006), Public Choice Society (2005).

Specialized workshops: Geodata and Economics (TU Braunschweig 2018), Development and Sustainability (Monash 2018), Institutions and Diversity (NES Moscow 2017), Economics of Identity (U Zurich 2017), Migration and Conflict (U Louvain 2017), International Development (U Navarra 2017), Political Economics (U Konstanz 2015), Natural Resources and Governance (U Siegen 2014), Cooperation and Conflict (U Wageningen 2013), Governance and Conflict (U Namur 2011), Financial Development (Monash 2008).

Research seminars: U Lausanne (2018), IHEID Geneva (2018), U Gothenburg (2016, 2018), WZB Berlin (2006, 2018), U Melbourne (2006, 2014, 2018), Deakin (2008, 2018), Monash (2009, 2012, 2018), U Zurich (2006, 2011, 2017), ETH Zurich (2012, 2014, 2016), U Lugano (2016), IEB Barcelona (2016), CMI Bergen (2016), NHH Bergen (2014, 2016), U Hannover (2015), BI Oslo (2015), U Fribourg (2015), U York (2015), U Bergen (2014), U Hamburg (2013), U Heidelberg (2008, 2010, 2013), U Regensburg (2013), U St.Gallen (2009, 2013), NTNU Trondheim (2012), U Glasgow (2012), U Wageningen (2011), Pompeu Fabra (2011), U Bern (2009, 2010), U Oxford (2010), U Frankfurt (2010), U Lucerne (2010), U Basel (2006, 2009), La Trobe (2008), U Tasmania (2008), U Adelaide (2008), ANU (2007), U Auckland (2007), U Tilburg (2006), Harvard (2005).

Policy conferences and seminars: Conference on Policy Evaluation in Development Cooperation (2015, organized by ministries of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (2014).

Teaching and supervision

Bachelor courses: Public Economics/Public Finance (U St.Gallen since 2014), Growth and Development (U Lucerne 2011–2013), International Trade (U Lucerne 2011–2013), Competition and Strategy (U Melbourne 2007–2009).

Master courses: Political Economics (U Melbourne 2008–2009, U St.Gallen since 2014), Development Assistance (U Lucerne 2012–2014), Microeconomics (U Lucerne 2012–2014).

PhD courses: Political Economics of Development (U St.Gallen since 2016), Topics in Political Economics (LMU Munich 2012, U St.Gallen 2014–2016), Economics and Politics of Resource-Rich Economies (U Gothenburg 2015).

PhD supervision: Philine Widmer (in progress), Noémie Zurlinden (in progress), Anna Bruederle (2017), Friedhelm Hentschel (2016).

Professional services

Conference organization: Swiss Economists Abroad Conference (2010, 2012), Australasian Development Economics Workshop (2009).

Reviewing activities: Annual meetings (e.g., German Development Economics Conference, Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics), funding agencies (e.g., Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Swiss National Science Foundation), prize committees (e.g., KfW Development Bank), and more than 40 different academic journals (e.g., *American Economic Review*, *American Political Science Review*, *Econometrica*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*).

Services at University of St.Gallen: Member of Research Committee (since 2018), Director of SIAW-HSG (since 2014), Academic Director of Bachelor in Economics (2015–2018), member of various hiring committees.

Services for other universities: External examiner/member of PhD committees (U Basel, U Bern, Deakin, U Hannover, U Melbourne), external expert for hiring and promotion committees (U Lugano, NTNU Trondheim).