

Nikolaus Wolf

Curriculum Vitae

Personal

Date of Birth	22 September 1973 in Miltenberg am Main (Bavaria, Germany)
Family Status	Married, with three children
Nationality	German
Address and Affiliations	Professor of Economic History, Director of the Institute of Economic History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Spandauer Straße 1, 10178 Berlin, Germany
Personal website	http://nikolauswolf.eu
	Other Affiliations (incl.): CEPR (London), CESifo (Munich).

Education

2003	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany) , Dr. Rer. Pol. Dissertation: “Economic Integration in Historical Perspective: The Case of Interwar Poland, 1918 – 1939” (summa cum laude).
2001-2002	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany) DFG-Graduiertenkolleg “Applied Microeconomics”.
1997-2000	Humboldt-Universität Berlin (Germany) Diplom-Volkswirt (MSc in Economics).
1997-2001	Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) Magister Artium Neuere und Neueste Geschichte (MA in Modern History).
1994-1997	Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (Germany) Vordiplom Volkswirtschaftslehre Zwischenprüfung Geschichte.

Professional Experience

August 2010 – current	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Economics, Professor of Economics and Economic History.
Sept. 2018 – Mar 2019	Visiting Professor , Oxford University (UK), Dept. of Economics.
Oct. 2006 – July 2010	The University of Warwick (UK) Department of Economics and CSGR, Associate Professor (Ten. 2008) , RCUK Senior Research Fellow.
Sept. 2004 – Sept. 2006	Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) Juniorprofessor (Assistant Professor) of Economic History.
April – June 2006	Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain) Visiting Assistant Professor.
Sept. 2003 – Sept 2004	London School of Economics (UK) Postdoctoral Research Fellow , Centre for Economic Performance (CEP).
2001 – Sept. 2003	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany) Research and Teaching Assistant , Institute of Economic History (Prof. Dr. Albrecht Ritschl).

Current Working Papers

“Suez”, with David Jacks and Chris C. Meissner, NBER WP 33250, CEPR DP 19758.

Publications

a) Refereed Journals (recent, selected)

"Fickle Fossils. Economic Growth, Coal and the European Oil Invasion, 1900-2015", with Miriam Fritzsche, CEPR Discussion Paper 18635, *European Economic Review* (forthcoming).

"Political Sovereignty vs. Economic Integration: The Euro in the Long Run", *Journal of Modern European History*, Vol. 24, Issue 2, 2026, Pages 124-152.

"How Britain Unified Germany: Trade Routes and the Formation of the Zollverein" (2026), with Thilo R. Huning, *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 81, Issues 1, 2026, Pages 109-145, CEPR Discussion Paper 13634.

"Geography and Space in Recent Economic History", *Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, Vol. 66, Issue 2, October 2025, Pages 1-23.

"Testing Marx. Capital Accumulation, Income Inequality, and Socialism in Late Nineteenth-Century Germany", with C. Bartels and F. Kersting, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 107, Issue 4, 2025, Pages 935-950, CEPR Discussion Paper 17925.

"The Universe of Germany's Foreign Trade prior to World War I", with Wolf-Fabian Hungerland, *German Economic Review*, 25 (4) 2025, pp. 325-370.

"On the Origins of National Identity", with Felix Kersting CEPR Discussion Paper 16314, with Felix Kersting, *Journal of Comparative Economics* 52 (2) June 2024, pp. 463-477

"The Panopticon of Germany's Foreign Trade. New facts on the First Globalization, 1880-1913", with Wolf-Fabian Hungerland, *European Review of Economic History*, Vol. 26, Issue 4, November 2022, pp. 479–507.

"Regional growth and inequality in the long-run: Europe, 1900–2015", with Joan R. Rosés, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Vol. 37, No. 1, 2021, pp. 17–48.

"Weber Revisited: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Nationalism", with Felix Kersting and Iris Wohnsiedler, *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 80 (3), 2020, pp 710-745.

"Rural Transformation, Inequality and the Origins of Micro-Finance", with M. Suesse, *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 143 (March), 2020, pp. xyz.

"Bombs, Homes and Jobs: Revisiting the Oswald Hypothesis for Germany", with Paul Caruana Galizia, *Economics Letters*, Volume 135, 2015, pp. 65-68.

"The Economics of Density: Evidence from the Berlin Wall" with Gabriel Ahlfeld, Stephen Redding and Daniel Sturm, *Econometrica*, Volume 83 (6), 2015, pp. 2127-2189.

"Tear down this Wall: On the Persistence of Borders in Trade", with Volker Nitsch, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 46 (1) (2013), pp. 154-179.

"On the Economic Consequences of the Peace: Trade and Borders after Versailles", with Max-Stephan Schulze and Hans-Christian Heinemeyer, *Journal of Economic History* 71 (4) (2011), pp. 915-949.

"Endogeneity of Currency Areas and Trade Blocs: Evidence from the Interwar-Period", with Albrecht Ritschl, *Kyklos* 64 (2) (2011), pp. 291-312.

"History and Industry Location: Evidence from German Airports", with Stephen Redding and Daniel Sturm, *Review of Economics and Statistics* 93 (3) (2011), pp. 814-831.

"Was Germany ever united? Evidence from Intra- and International Trade, 1885-1933", *Journal of Economic History* 69 (3) (2009), pp. 846-881.

"Scylla and Charybdis. Explaining Europe's Exit from Gold, 1928-1936", *Explorations in Economic History* 45 (2008), pp. 383-401.

b) Books and Book chapters (selected)

"Die Protestantische Ethik und der Geist des Nationalismus", with Felix Kersting, in: Martin Lutz, Maren Freudenberg, Moritz Hinsch (eds.) *Handbuch Wirtschaft und Religion in Deutschland im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert, De Gruyter Oldenbourg*, 2025, pp. xyz.

"Zur Bauwirtschaft der klassischen Moderne: was lehrt das Beispiel GEHAG?", in: Steffen Adam, Reinhard Wenzel (Hg.): 100 Jahre GEHAG. Gegenwart und Zukunft des Solidarischen Wohnungsbaus, Verlag BeBra Wissenschaft, Berlin 2025, pp. xyz.

An Economic History of the First German Unification. State Formation and Economic Development in a European Perspective, with Ulrich Pfister (eds.), Routledge Explorations in Economic History (2023).

"Wirtschaftliche Anpassung und Modernisierung: Polen in der Weltwirtschaftskrise und danach" in: Klaus Ziemer et al (eds.), *Polen in der europäischen Geschichte. Ein Handbuch, Hirsemann*, (forthcoming).

"Binnenhandel und Außenhandel" with Markus Lampe in: Thomas Rahlf (ed.), *Deutschland in Daten - Zeitreihen zur Historischen Statistik*, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Bonn, 2022, pp. 282-297.

"Zahlungsbilanz" in: Thomas Rahlf (ed.), *Deutschland in Daten - Zeitreihen zur Historischen Statistik*, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Bonn, 2022, pp. 298-309.

"Underlying Sources of Growth: First and Second Nature Geography and Global Economic Development, 1870-2010", N. Wolf with Paul Caruana Galizia and Toshihiro Okubo, in: Stephen Broadberry and Kyoji Fukao (eds.) *The Cambridge Economic History of the Modern World*, Oxford University Press, 2021, pp. 382-417.

Deutschland 1871. Die Nationalstaatsbildung und der Weg in die moderne Wirtschaft, with Ulrich Pfister, Jan Hesse and Mark Spoerer (eds.), Mohr Siebeck (2021).

The Economic Development of Europe's Regions: A Quantitative History Since 1900 (Routledge Explorations in Economic History), with Joan R. Roses (eds.), Routledge Explorations in Economic History (2019).

Policy Contributions (recent)

"Trumps Wirtschaftskrieg Zölle sind das Symptom für fundamentale Umbrüche", Gastbeitrag, Tagesspiegel, 10. August 2025.

"Welthandel am Abrung? Eine historische Perspektive, *Ifo Schnelldienst* Juni 2025.

"Wie die Briten aus Versehen Deutschland vereinigten" (*F.A.S.*, 22. June 2025, *F.A.Z.* 29. June 2025).

„Die Renaissance der Handelskriege“, Interview *RBB Radio 3*, 3rd April 2025.

„Wenn Trump Grönland kaufen will, sollten wir Kanada auffordern, der EU beizutreten“, Interview *business punk*, 30th Jan 2025.

„Krisen bergen Chancen, zeigt die Historie“, Interview, *DEKA fondsmagazin*, 27th Jan 2025.

"Can the North Sea become Europe's new economic powerhouse?", 1st Jan 2023, *The Economist*.

"The panopticon of Germany's foreign trade: New facts on the first globalisation, 1880–1913", online publication at *VOXEU*, the CEPR policy portal, May 2021.

"Germany's Regional Development: 30-150 Years Since Unification", 1st Dec 2020, *The Economic History Podcast*.

"Weber revisited: The Protestant ethic and the spirit of nationalism", June 2020 online publication at *VOXEU*, the CEPR policy portal, June 2020.

"The origins of microfinance", online publication at *VOXEU*, the CEPR policy portal <https://voxeu.org/article/origins-microfinance>, January 2020.

"How Britain Unified Germany: Endogenous Trade Costs and the Formation of a Customs Union", online publication at *VOXEU*, the CEPR policy portal, April 2019.

"Protectionism: Historical perspectives", online publication at *VOXEU* blogs: <https://voxeu.org/content/protectionism-historical-perspectives>, June 2018.

"The return of regional inequality: Europe from 1900 to today", online publication at *VOEXU*, the CEPR policy portal: <https://voxeu.org/article/return-regional-inequality-europe-1900-today>, March 2018. Commented in the Financial Times, NY Times, Paul Krugman's blog etc.

"Perspectives on Economic Integration between the EU and North Africa Investments, Reforms, Partnership", with Felix Mihram and Myriel Frische, BMZ – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (February 2017), 110 pages.

Various interviews in German and international newspapers, radio and TV stations such as ARD, Deutschlandfunk, ABC, SWF.

Prices and Scholarships

May 2018 **Frisch Medal Award** for the best article in *Econometrica*, 2013-2018, awarded biannually by the Econometric Society, shared with G. Ahlfeldt, S. Redding, and D. Sturm.

April 2018 **Teaching Price** for best Seminar 2016/17, Humboldt-University, Dept. of Economics

October 2012 **Arthur H. Cole Prize** for the best article in the Journal of Economic

	History 2012, awarded annually by the Economic History Association, shared with M. S. Schulze and H.C. Heinemyer.
2011	Teaching Price for best BSc Lecture, Humboldt-University, Dept. of Economics
January 2008	Global Economy Award , awarded by the CESifo Institute (Munich) and appointment as distinguished CESifo Research Affiliate.
October 2006 – current	Full-Time RCUK Research Fellowship.
August 2006	International Economic History Association , Dissertation Award Finalist, Helsinki.
September 2005	Gino-Luzzatto-Prize for the best Dissertation in European Economic History 2003-2005, awarded by the European Historical Economics Society.
2003-2004	European Commission Scholarship for a post-doctoral Fellowship, London School of Economics.
2001-2002	DFG-PhD Scholarship “Applied Microeconomics”, Humboldt-Universität Berlin.
1996-2000	Cusanuswerk Full Scholarship for Studies in Economics and History.

Research Grants

German Science Foundation (DFG) Grant “Deutschlands Außenhandel. Aufbau einer Datenbank im SITC-Standard. ("GerTrade")“, with Jan-Otmar Hesse and Barbara Settekorn (2025-2027).

German Science Foundation (DFG) Grant “Policy Preferences and Identities”, with Davide Cantoni and Arianna Ornaghi (2024-2027).

German Science Foundation (DFG) Grant “Changing Preferences: Identity and Ideology in the Long Run”, with Davide Cantoni (2021-2024).

German Science Foundation (DFG) Grant “Competition between states and the historical roots of identity”, with Davide Cantoni (2017-2021).

Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Grant “Regional Economic Inequality, Ethnicity and Conflicts in Turkey, 1880-2010”, with U. Karakoc (2017-2019).

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, “Perspectives on Economic Integration between the EU and North Africa Investments, Reforms, Partnership (2016-2017).

German Science Foundation (DFG), Grant “The structure and dynamics of Germany’s Foreign Trade, 1880-1912” (2014-17).

European Science Foundation, Grant “MACROHIST” ITN Graduate Program, (2013-2017).

Multimedia Förderprogramm 2012, der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin “DelaX”.

German Science Foundation (DFG) SFB Economic Risk, Grant “The Local Incidence of Shocks”, joint with Axel Werwatz.

Institute for Advanced Studies (University of Warwick) Incubation Award, “The Final Frontier: Rethinking Borders”, joint with James Brasset and Dwijen Rangnekar (2008-2009).

European Science Foundation, Grant “Historical Economic Geography of Europe, 1900-2000” part of the GLOBALEURONET, joint with Joan R. Ross, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid (Spain), (2006-2010).

German Science Foundation (DFG), Grant "The Impact of Division and Reunification on the Economic Geography of Germany" joint with Stephen Redding (LSE) and Daniel Sturm (LMU Munich/ LSE) (2005 – 2009).

Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Grant "The Trade Network of Central Europe 1850 - 1939" joint with Max-Stephan Schulze (LSE) (2005 – 2009).

Fritz Thyssen Foundation Grant, "The Persistence of Borders: evidence from intra-German trade flows" joint with Volker Nitsch (FU Berlin/ ETH Zurich) (2006-2009).

Professional Service, Affiliations

DFG Fachkollegium 1.24 (Wirtschaftswissenschaften), since April 2024.

The Productivity Institute, Advisory Committee.

Centre for Economics, Policy and History (CEPH), Advisor, Research Steering Group.

IOS Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Advisory Board.

CEPR (London), Research Fellow (International Trade and Regional Economics, Economic History).

CESifo (Munich), Research Fellow (Global Economy).

Chair of the Economic History Section within the **Verein für Socialpolitik** (2012-2016).

Research Affiliate (Globalisation Programme) at the **CEP** (London School of Economics).

Research Associate at the **Centre for Historical Economics**, University of York.

Trustee, **European Historical Economics Society** (2010-2017).

Editor-in-Chief **European Review of Economic History** (2013 -2019).

Founding Editor **EHES (European Historical Economics Society) Working Paper Series** (2012-2016).

Member of the Editorial Board of **Journal of Economic History**, **Economic History Review**, **Explorations in Economic History**, **Rivista di Storia Economica**, **Scandinavian Economic History Review**, **Studies in Economic History** and **Cliometrica**.

Reviewer for European Commission, DFG, DPWS, and others. Referee for American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of the European Economic Association, Economic Journal, European Economic Review, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, European Review of Economic History, Economic History Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, Cliometrica, Economics of Transition and others.

Former PhD students

Felix Kersting (Humboldt University Berlin)

Monique Reiske (Universität Münster)

Miriam Fritzsche (German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action)

Wolf-Fabian Hungerland (German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action)

Thilo Huning (University of York)

Kalle Kappner (LMU, Munich)

Konstantin Körner (IZA)

Raphael Schöttler (Loanboox Germany)

Wolfgang Stojetz (ISCD Berlin)

Marvin Suesse (Trinity College Dublin)

Teaching Experience

Economic History

The World Economy since 1500 (BSc level course, Humboldt University Berlin)

European Economic History (part I and part II; MSc level lecture courses over one year, Humboldt University and FU Berlin).

International Economic History (3rd-year undergraduate lecture course, UPF, Spain).

The International Economic System since 1918 (3rd-year undergraduate lecture course, Warwick, UK).

General Economics

Advanced International Trade (MSc-level lecture course with tutorial, Humboldt University)

Introduction to Economics (VWL 1/ Einführung in die VWL, FU Berlin and HU Berlin).

Macroeconomics (1st year undergraduate lecture course, Warwick, UK).

Macroeconomic Policy (3rd-year undergraduate lecture course, Warwick, UK).

Various MSc and BSc level seminars in Economics, Economic History and Modern History
(*Economics of Religion, Spatial Economics, Currency Unions in Historical Perspective, The Great Depression, Historical Statistics, Geography and Growth, The German Labour Market, Economic History and New Economic Geography, The Economics of Identity and Ethnic Conflict, and others*)

Languages

German (mother tongue).

English (fluent).

Polish (fluent).

French (reading: good/ speaking: basic).

Latin (basic).