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Nora Ballinari-Bearth

Analytical problem-solver with applied quantitative skills and a passion for causal machine learning, analyzing data, skiing and climbing.

Work Experience

Data Scientist — Sunrise AG, Opfikon *09/2025 — now*
- Built an uplift model using causal forests to target retention campaigns, reducing churn by 10 p.p. in a holdout experiment.
- Estimated causal effects with DML, and advised business stakeholders on the effect of fixnet technologies on churn.
- Designed and analyzed 10+ A/B tests, including power analysis and CUPED variance reduction.

Doctoral Research Scientist — Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research, University of St. Gallen *08/2021 — 07/2025*
- Derived, proved and implemented new causal machine learning methods for estimating treatment effects.
- Cleaned and analyzed various large datasets from the government and from health insurers.
- Taught exercise classes in data analytics, microeconomics and macroeconomics; consistently received very good course evaluations.

Intern M&A Advisory — KMPG AG, Zurich *03/2019 — 07/2019*
- Worked on live M&A mandates and pitches.
- Performed valuations, industry researches, market analyses and company research.

Intern Corporate Tax — KPMG AG, Zurich *09/2018 — 02/2019*
- Tax compliance: filing tax returns, checking tax invoices, overviews in excel.
- Tax advisory: due diligence (tax for M&A), legal clarifications, assistance with tax advice regarding reorganization and market entry.

Part time secretary — Kunz Schmid Rechtsanwälte und Notare AG, Chur *06/2016 — 03/2017*
- Independent management of the secretariat and correspondence with clients, counterparties and authorities.
- Assisting lawyers in drafting contracts and notarial deeds.

Education

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Ph.D. in Econometrics (*Essays in Causal Inference* - Summa cum laude and price for best PhD in Econometrics) *08/2021 — 04/2025*
- Further developing and evaluating different causal machine learning models using Monte Carlo simulations.
- Hands-on experience in applying machine learning methods to big datasets from the government and insurances.
- Presenting at several conferences and teaching various classes in front of large audiences.

M.A. in Quantitative Economics and Finance (summa cum laude) *09/2019 — 09/2021*
- Exchange: *Double degree with Stockholm School of Economics.*
- Various courses in Statistics, Predictive and Causal Data Analytics, Time Series Econometrics, Mathematics.

B.A. in Business Administration (summa cum laude) *09/2015 — 09/2018*
- Exchange: *University of Western Austraila in Perth.*

Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden

M.Sc. in Applied Economic Analysis (summa cum laude) *09/2019 — 09/2021*
- Exchange: *Double degree with University of St. Gallen.*

Relevant Academic Research

Causal Machine Learning for Moderation Analysis (joint with M. Lechner)
- We introduce a new parameter of interest to estimate differences in treatment effects, show how to estimate it using double/debiased machine learning (DML) and proof its asympotic properties.

Improving the Finite Sample Estimation of Average Treatment Effects using Double/Debiased Machine Learning with Propensity Score Calibration (joint with D. Ballinari)
- We show that calibrating propensity scores improves the estimation of average treatment effects when using DML.

Beyond Baby Blues: The Child Penalty in Mental Health in Switzerland
- I analyze the mental health penalty for women after childbirth in Switzerland leveraging insurance data.

Relevant Skills & Expertise

Technical Skills: Python (NumPy, scikit-learn, Pandas, statsmodels), R, SQL, Latex, Git, Claude code.
Languages: Raetho-Romansh, German (bilingual), English (proficiency), French (beginner), Italian (beginner)
Talks and Paper Presentations: Annual congress of SSES, COMPIE conference, Annual meeting Verein für Socialpolitik, CSS, Swica, Mobiliar, University of Lucern, University of St. Gallen

Extracurricular Activities

Founder member — Millenial Board Switzerland, Chur *04/2018 — 04/2023*
Participant — Econometric Games, Amsterdam *04/2021 + 04/2022*
Student representative SEPS and member of student parliament — SHSG, St. Gallen *06/2019 — 05/2020*
Part-time Ski instructor — Skiclub and Ski- und Snowboard Schule, Obersaxen *12/2016 — 04/2020*
President — Orchestra of the University, St. Gallen *06/2016 — 05/2017*