

Dr. Nikita Zakharov

Rempartstraße 16, 79098 Freiburg, Germany

Email: nikita.zakharov@vwl.uni-freiburg.de

Website: ni-zakharov.github.io • ORCID: 0000-0001-7153-5799

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Research Fellow University of Freiburg, Germany	2020 – Present
Visiting Research Fellow BOFIT (Bank of Finland Institute for Emerging Economies), Helsinki, Finland	2022
Postdoctoral Research Fellow University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA	2019 – 2020
Lab-Experiment Organiser Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Athens, Greece	2015
Research Assistant University of Freiburg, Germany	2014 – 2019

EDUCATION

Habilitation in Economics (in progress; completion expected August 2027) University of Freiburg, Germany	2026 – 2027
Ph.D. in Economics (summa cum laude) University of Freiburg, Germany <i>Dissertation Prize: Friedrich-August-von-Hayek-Preis (2021)</i>	2014 – 2020
M.A., Economics and Politics University of Freiburg, Germany	2012
B.A., Economic Analysis, Accounting and Auditing Kazan State University, Russia	2008

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. **Can Authoritarian Electoral Propaganda Compete with the Opposition? Experimental Evidence from Russia** (with Michael Rochlitz and Koen Schoors).
British Journal of Political Science, 2026
2. **Fear, Soft Propaganda, and the Demand for Government Intervention: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Russia** (with Ekaterina Borisova, Timothy Frye, Koen Schoors, Vladimir Zabolotskiy).
European Economic Review, 2026
3. **Polarize and Rule: Independent Media in Autocracy and the Role of Social Media** (with Ruben Enikolopov, Michael Rochlitz, and Koen Schoors).
The Economic Journal, 2026
4. **Under the Wing: The Effect of Parental Proximity on Intimate Partner Violence and Underreporting** (with Mukhlisa Egamberdieva).
Economics Letters, 2026

5. **Do Terrorist Attacks Polarize Politicians? Evidence from the European Parliamentary Speeches on Migration** (with Hana Jomni).
Journal of Peace Research, 2026
6. **Elections and (Mis) Reporting of COVID-19 Mortality** (with Parrenda Kpeli and Günther G. Schulze).
Economics of Governance, 2026
7. **Too Hot to Play It Cool? Temperature and Negative Media Bias** (with David Stadelmann and Tobias Thomas).
Public Choice, 2026.
8. **Encouraged to Cheat? Federal Incentives and Career Concerns at the Sub-National Level as Determinants of Under-Reporting of COVID-19 Mortality** (with Dmitrii Kofanov, Vladimir Kozlov, and Alexander Libman).
British Journal of Political Science, 2023.
9. **Who Profits from Windfalls in Oil Tax Revenue? Inequality, Protests, and the Role of Corruption** (with Michael Alexeev).
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 2022.
10. **Asymmetric Oil Price Shocks, Tax Revenues, and the Resource Curse.**
Economics Letters, 2020.
11. **Does Corruption Hinder Investment? Evidence From Russian Regions.**
European Journal of Political Economy, 2019.
12. **Corruption in Russia** (with Günther G. Schulze and Bambang Suharnoko Sjahrir).
Journal of Law and Economics, 2016.

PAPERS INVITED FOR REVISIONS OR ACCEPTED

1. **Can't Buy Me Love? Cash Transfers and Support for an Autocrat** (with Diana Zarbailova).
Accepted at the Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization.
2. **Political Cycles of Media Repression** (with Günther G. Schulze).
Reject & Resubmit at the Review of Economics and Statistics.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- **Transit Migration and Crime: Evidence from Colombia** (with Ramon Rey and Günther G. Schulze).
Under review.
- **Roots of Courage: The Memory of Repression and Dissent under Autocracy** (with Andrey Tkachenko and Amir Saimassay).
- **From Despair to War: The Long Shadow of the USSR Collapse and Enlistment in Russia's Proxy War in Donbas.**
- **We Do Not Abandon Our Own: Individual Sanctions and the Careers of Russian Officials** (with David Szakonyi).
- **Activating Preference Falsification: An Experimental Test of the Fear Mechanism** (with Andrey Tkachenko).

- **The Effect of COVID-19 Cash Transfers on Health and Well-being of Adolescents: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Russia** (with Vladimir Kozlov and Dmitrii Kofanov).
- **State-Induced Preference Falsification: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Russia.**
- **Between Modernity and Tradition: A List Experiment on Marital Choice and Coercion in Uzbekistan.** (with Mukhlisa Egamberdieva).
- **Ain't No Silver Bullet? Gun Laws and Suicide in the US.** (with Joshua Ball, Günther G. Schulze).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **Corruption in Russia** (with Günther G. Schulze).
Book Chapter in "Handbook on Geographies of Corruption", ed. Barney Warf, 2018.
- **The Art of Data Manipulation in Russia: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic.**
Russian Analytical Digest, 2024.

GRANTS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Student Council Award for Best Master's Elective Lecture,** 2026
University of Freiburg, WS 2025/26
- **Funding for FRIAS Junior Conference** ($\approx 14,000$ Euro) 2024
Conference: "Understanding the Rise of Autocrats in the 21st Century: Digital Propaganda, Populism, and (Hybrid) Warfare", University of Freiburg (with V. Klotzbücher and A. Tkachenko).
- **Funding for Data Collection "Sanctions and Business in Latvia"** 2024
Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Freiburg Grant (1,000 Euro)
- **Friedrich-August-von-Hayek-Preis** (Dissertation Prize, 2,000 Euro) 2021
- **LGFG Doctoral Scholarship** 2014 – 2018
- **DAAD Scholarship** 2008 – 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

- **Introduction to Empirical Economics Using Stata** (4 LVS):
WS 2025/26, WS 2024/25, WS 2023/24, WS 2022/23, SS 2021, SS 2019.
- **Economics of Corruption** (4 LVS):
SS 2026, SS 2025, SS 2024, SS 2023, SS 2022, WS 2020/21.
- **The Determinants of Violent Behavior** (Block Course, co-taught with G. G. Schulze, 4 LVS): WS 2021/22.
- **Ringvorlesung: Der Krieg in der Ukraine und seine Folgen** (1 LVS): SS 2022.
- **Seminars:** The Economics of Corruption (WS 2018/19), The Political Economics of Information and Media (SS 2018), Governments Breaking Bad (WS 2015/16), Political Economy of Urbanization and Development (WS 2014/15).

Supervision

- Supervised 58 Master's theses and 22 Bachelor's theses.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Conference Organisation

- Organised the international conference *"Understanding the Rise of Autocrats in the 21st Century: Digital Propaganda, Populism, and (Hybrid) Warfare"* at FRIAS, University of Freiburg (2024).

Referee Service (selected journals)

- *Economic Journal, European Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Comparative Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Post-Soviet Affairs, World Development.*

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- **2026:** Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship (Münster); European Public Choice Society (Madrid); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (Fontainebleau); Invited Talk: Research Seminar in Applied Economics and Management, Université libre de Bruxelles (Brussels).
- **2025:** Verein für Socialpolitik (Cologne); Summer school: Hot Topics on Development in the Global South (Gent); Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship (Münster); Invited Talk: University of Bern (Bern).
- **2024:** CESifo Workshop on Digitalization (Berlin); Verein für Socialpolitik (Berlin); Silaplana Workshop on Political Economy (Pontresina); Invited Talk: IOS (Regensburg); European Public Choice Society (Vienna); FRIAS Young researchers workshop (Freiburg).
- **2023:** Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship (Münster); European Public Choice Society (Hannover); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (Frankfurt); Verein für Socialpolitik (Regensburg).
- **2022:** Economics and Politics Workshop, EP@L (Lille); European Public Choice Society (Braga); BOFIT seminar (Helsinki); Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship (Münster).
- **2021:** Virtual Young Scholars Conference (Madison, WI); Second Freiburg-Göttingen Workshop (Göttingen); Workshop on Media Economics (Trier).
- **2020:** Wisconsin Russia Project: Virtual Workshop (Madison, WI).
- **2019:** ASEEES (San Francisco, CA); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (Stockholm); ICSID Conference "Political Economy of Inequality" (Moscow); Invited Talk: IOS (Regensburg); European Public Choice Society (Jerusalem); Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship (Münster); First Freiburg-Göttingen Workshop (Göttingen).
- **2018:** Ghent Russia Colloquium (Gent); Russia Project - Young Scholars (Madison, WI); Workshop on Insights into Political Economy (Berlin); European Public Choice Society (Rome).
- **2017:** Growth and Redistribution in Limited Access Orders (Munich); European Public Choice Society (Budapest); Invited Talk: Max-Planck Institute (Bonn); ICSID Conference "Political Economy of Inequality" (Moscow).
- **2016:** Russian Summer School on Institutional Analysis (Moscow).
- **2015:** European Economics and Finance Society (Brussels).

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

- **Languages:** Russian (native), English (professional), German (fluent), Dutch (intermediate), Tatar (basic).
- **Software:** Stata, MATLAB, SPSS, $\text{\LaTeX}$.

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Günther G. Schulze
University of Freiburg

Prof. Dr. Koen Schoors
University of Ghent

Prof. Dr. Alexander Libman
Free University of Berlin

Prof. Dr. Michael Rochlitz
University of Oxford