

Urs Schweizer



Academic career

1972	Dr. phil., University of Basel, Switzerland
1974 - 1975	Visiting Research Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Economics, Cambridge, MA, USA
1975 - 1976	Visiting Research Fellow, University of California, Department of Economics, Berkeley, CA, USA
1977 - 1981	Research Fellow, DFG Collaborative Research Center SFB 21 "Ökonomische Prognose-, Entscheidungs- und Gleichgewichtsmodelle", University of Bonn
1980	Habilitation, University of Bonn
1981 - 1984	Professor of Economics, University of Bielefeld
1994 - 1997	Head of the Economics Department, University of Bonn
2004 - 2008	Senator, University of Bonn
Since 1984	Professor of Economics, University of Bonn

Honours

Since 2001	Regular member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts
Since 2004	Fellow of the European Economic Association

Offers

1988/89	Professor of Economics, Bern, Switzerland
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Research Projects and Activities

Research Training Group "Interactive Economics Decisions"

Coordinator, 1991 - 1999

Bonn Graduate School of Economics

Coordinator, since 1998

DFG Collaborative Research Centre SFB/TR 15 "Governance and the Efficiency of Economic Systems"

Coordinator, 2008 - 2011

Research profile

After having moved from mathematics to economics, my first research topic concerned spatial aspects of general equilibrium theory. I consider [10] on the comparative statics of a residential economy and [9] on a production economy as my most important contributions from that time. Attracted by theories of fiscal decentralization, I felt the need to incorporate political decision taking into models of spatial economies. [8] is the most general version of a series of papers that departed from the idea that local landowners might be the thriving force behind decisions to spend on local public goods. I also have spent much time on exploring Buchanan's version of a social contract as an approach to model political decision taking. Initially, I somehow got stuck with what economists call contract theory. The most important contribution from that period has turned out to be [5] even though this paper was accepted for publication with a substantial delay only. From an abstract perspective, contracts can be seen as mechanisms that are designed by the involved parties. The aim was to explain real institutions as mechanisms which are optimal, given the appropriate exogenous distribution of information among the involved parties.

Unfortunately, the theory did not really deliver on its promises. As a consequence, I changed the research strategy by exploring instead the incentives that emerge from real institutions as provided by contract law and tort law. An early contribution to the economic analysis of law was [7], a paper that is still widely quoted and referred to.

Editorships

- Regional Science and Urban Economics (Managing Editor, 1980 - 1986)
- *Econometrica* (Associate Editor, 1989 - 1998)
- German Economic Review (Co-Editor, 2000 - 2007)

Research Area I

Supervised theses

Diplom theses: 35, currently 3

PhD theses: 5, currently 2

Selected PhD students

Julia Nafziger (2007): "Information and Incentives in Organizations",
now Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark

Susanne Goldlücke, born as Susanne Ohlendorf (2009): "Essays on Optimal Contracts and Renegotiation",

now Assistant Professor, University of Mannheim

Daniel Müller (2010): "Essays in Applied Microeconomics and Management",
now Professor, University of Würzburg

Habilitations

None during the initial funding period.

In economics, habilitation is no longer required to receive a tenured professorship. Andreas Roider, e.g., a former postdoctoral student at my chair, accepted an offer for a W3-position (full professor) from the University of Heidelberg.

Selected publications

- [1] U. Schweizer. Breach remedies, performance excuses, and investment incentives. *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 2010.
- [2] U. Schweizer. Legal damages for losses of chances. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 29(2):153–160, 2009.
- [3] U. Schweizer. Tortious acts affecting markets. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 27(1):49–69, 2007.
- [4] U. Schweizer. Cooperative investments induced by contract law. *The RAND Journal of Economics*, 37(1):134–145, 2006.
- [5] Urs Schweizer. Universal possibility and impossibility results. *Games Econom. Behav.*, 57(1):73–85, 2006.
- [6] U. Schweizer. Law and economics of obligations. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 25(2):209–228, 2005.
- [7] U. Schweizer. Litigation and settlement under two-sided incomplete information. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 56(2):163, 1989.
- [8] Urs Schweizer. Efficient exchange with a variable number of consumers. *Econometrica*, 51(3):575–584, 1983.
- [9] Urs Schweizer. A spatial version of the nonsubstitution theorem. *J. Econom. Theory*, 19(2):307–320, 1978.
- [10] John Hartwick, Urs Schweizer, and Pravin Varaiya. Comparative statics of a residential economy with several classes. *J. Econom. Theory*, 13(3):396–413, 1976.