



## From LSE to HSG



### **Frank PISCH**

*Frank Pisch, with a fresh PhD degree from the London School of Economics, joins the Econ faculty as an assistant professor and is part of the Global Economy Center at HSG. What are his research and teaching plans? What does he expect from HSG students and colleagues in the Econ faculty?*

**You hold a PhD from London School of Economics. What were the highlights of your PhD studies at LSE? Why did you prefer St. Gallen?**

Looking back, I think I particularly enjoyed the wide range of top notch seminars and researchers (not only from LSE), which really change how you think about the world. It is a vibrant place with a lot of exposure to the political realm, which I very much welcomed. Regarding the HSG, when I dreamed about my ideal job last year, I imagined a family friendly place close(r) to my son's grandparents, and at a top business school that allows me to continue my ambitious work – guess it worked out!

**Can you shortly summarize your main research projects as part of your PhD studies, and your research plans for the coming years? Can you think of important policy implications of your research?**

Notwithstanding some work I did on fracking and comparative advantage in the U.S., my main interest is how multinational firms shape our economies. In one project, for example, we want to understand how technological features of supply chains affect multinationals' choices to produce themselves or outsource inputs. This and other behaviour of global firms is immediately relevant for policy making (think of tax evasion, capital controls, state aid etc.), but I think we have only just begun to penetrate this complex area.



**You are giving a topics course for MEcon and MiQEF students on multinational firms. What are the highlights of the course? Are there good topics for a Master thesis?**

I'm very excited about this course! We first cover the basics of how economists these days think about firms/multinational firms and then delve into very recent and mostly applied research. We touch upon how multinationals (Apple? Roche?) create inequality, how they avoid taxes, how they manage their complex and global supply chains, how they change developing countries, how they enable our comfortable lives, and several other pressing issues. I would think that there is ample scope for an ambitious thesis in this area, absolutely. These could even be part of a wider research project with substantial scientific value – students should just come for a chat!

**What are your plans for the future? Are there alternative options apart from an academic career? Are you interested to explore collaboration or even job opportunities with policy institutions to make use of your research?**

Professionally, I don't see any alternative to staying in academia. I absolutely love my job and there are few things better than being your own boss, working on the fascinating and pressing questions of our time, and still interacting with, and teach, young bright minds at university. During my time at LSE I was involved in policy consulting for the British government and I'd love to continue making an impact in this area as well here in Switzerland – be it in analysis or on committees.

**What do you expect from your new colleagues in the Econ faculty, and from Master students in economics? You have any advice for students?**

I am very much looking forward to working alongside very good researchers and – from what I have experienced so far – wonderfully friendly people here at HSG. I found it pretty easy, actually, to make contact and develop ideas together, everyone appears open to collaboration (and the odd chat about things outside econ, too!). I expect to meet very bright and ambitious students and hope that I will be able to convey a few points that I find important: critical thinking, responsible consumption of information, but also a positive “keenness” on and excitement about exploring and learning new things.

For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/frankpisch/home> or write to [Frank.Pisch@unisg.ch](mailto:Frank.Pisch@unisg.ch).