

Research Interests

Environmental and resource economics, forest ecosystem services, carbon market integrity (permanence, leakage, risk pricing), public preferences for environmental policy, discrete choice experiments, institutional trust, political economy of climate policy.

Education

- 2023–Present **Ph.D. in Economics**, *AgroParisTech, BETA (INRAE/CNRS/University of Lorraine)*, Nancy & Palaiseau, France.
Thesis: The Price of Nature: Market Integrity and Public Preferences in Natural Capital Policy.
Including a 9-month research stay at the Department of Land Economy, C-EENRG, University of Cambridge (2025).
Expected completion: October 2026 (within 3-year timeline).
- 2020–2022 **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's in European Forestry (M.Sc., Double Degree)**, *University of Eastern Finland; University of Lleida*, Joensuu, Finland; Lleida, Spain.
GPA: 97%.
Focus: Resource economics and policy (UEF, 1st year); spatial and ecological modelling (UdL, 2nd year), including empirical, mechanistic, and agent-based techniques.
Thesis: *Do Individual PES Buyers Care About Additionality and Free-Riding? A Choice Experiment*. Graded 100% with honours; published in *Ecological Economics* (2023).
Award: Extraordinary Prize for Master's Degrees, University of Lleida (best academic record 2021/22).
- 2016–2020 **B.Sc. in Forest Sciences**, *Dresden University of Technology*, Dresden, Germany.
GPA: 88%.
Focus: Forest management with additional coursework in economics, political science, and philosophy.
Thesis: *Small-Scale Spatial and Temporal Variation of Soil Organic Carbon Stocks at an Agricultural Site in Saxony*. Graded 99%.

Research Experience

- 2025 **Visiting Scholar**, *Department of Land Economy, Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG), University of Cambridge*, Cambridge, UK.
Research on carbon offset integrity and policy design with Andreas Kontoleon.
- 2025–Present **Research Fellow**, *Climate Economics Chair*, Paris, France.
Research on carbon market design and forest-based climate policy with Philippe Delacote.
- 2023–Present **Ph.D. Candidate in Economics**, *AgroParisTech, BETA*, Nancy & Palaiseau, France.
– Development of accounting rules for impermanence and leakage in EU and national carbon markets, including an actuarial framework for pricing time, displacement, and reversal risk in forest offsets (with Andreas Kontoleon).
– Public preference elicitation for PES using Discrete Choice Experiments and econometric/ML methods.
– Analysis of institutional trust and public support across policy instruments (market-based vs. state-led) in France, Germany, Denmark, and the UK.
- 2021–2024 **Research Associate, Research Assistant & Research Intern**, *INRAE, BETA; AgroParisTech; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU)*, Nancy, France; Vienna, Austria.
– Evaluation of market-based instruments for ecosystem services provision.
– Design and implementation of Discrete Choice Experiments on forest ecosystem services in France and Austria.
– Coordination of France–Austria research collaboration.
- 2018–2019 **Research Assistant & Research Intern**, *Dresden University of Technology & Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)*, Dresden, Germany; Almería, Spain.
Lab and field research on soil erosion, bio-based flame retardants, and experimental technosols for regeneration.

Publications

- Published **Frings, O.**, Abildtrup, J., Montagné-Huck, C., Gorel, S., & Stenger, A. (2023). Do Individual PES Buyers Care About Additionality and Free-Riding? A Choice Experiment. *Ecological Economics*, 213, 107944.
- Published Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., **Frings, O.**, Lehtonen, A., & Zavala, M. A. (2024). Carbon Farming in the European Forestry Sector. *From Science to Policy 17*. European Forest Institute.
- Published Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., **Frings, O.**, Lehtonen, A., Pülzl, H., Schindlbacher, A., & Zavala, M. A. (2026). A review of forest management practices potentially suitable for carbon farming in European forests. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 398, 128391.

- Working Paper **Frings, O.**, Abildtrup, J., Shanafelt, D. W., Lobianco, A., & Vacik, H. *The Far Right and the Forest: Political Context, Climate Beliefs, and Public Support for Ecosystem Service Payments.*
- Working Paper **Frings, O.** *A Hybrid Machine Learning and Random Utility Framework for Latent Class Model Specification.*
- Working Paper **Frings, O.**, Abildtrup, J., Delacote, P., Kontoleon, A., Böttcher, H., Chiti, T., Rey, A., Diaci, J., Lehtonen, A., Pülzl, H., Schindlbacher, A., & Zavala, M. A. *The Net Climate Value of Forest Offsets: Pricing Time, Displacement, and Reversal.*
- Forthcoming Chiti, T., Rey, A., Zavala, M. A., Manrique, S., & **Frings, O.** (2026). Productive and Biodiverse: Managing Europe's Forests for Economic and Ecological Outcomes. IUFRO Policy Report. International Union of Forest Research Organizations.
- In Preparation **Frings, O.** *Governments or Private Initiatives: Where Does Public Trust Fall in Forest Ecosystem Services Policy?*
- In Preparation Bry-Chevalier, T., & **Frings, O.** *Meat of the Future: Consumer Substitution and Environmental Impact of Cell-Based and Plant-Based Proteins.*
- In Preparation Lobianco, A., Besic, N., Bontemps, J.-D., **Frings, O.**, & Hertzog, L. *A Hybrid Machine Learning Approach for the Prediction of Forest Stand Growth Under Different Climate Scenarios.*

Policy Engagement

- May 2025 **Invited Roundtable Speaker**, *Lauterpacht Centre for International Law*, Cambridge, UK.
Roundtable on legal frameworks for climate and biodiversity policy.
- May 2025 **Expert Contributor**, *Co-design the Future(s) of Payments for Ecosystem Services in the EU*, Online.
Stakeholder workshop on EU PES scheme design.
- April 2025 **Invited Panellist**, *ThinkForest: Ask a Scientist – Carbon Farming in the European Forest Sector*, Online.
Science-policy panel on carbon farming implementation.
- Oct. 2024 **Invited Expert**, *ThinkForest: What Do We Know About Carbon Farming*, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU, Brussels.
Presented Chiti et al. (2024) to EU Commission officials; roundtable on EU CRCF policy with EU Commission attachés.

Communications

Conferences and Workshops

- March 2025 **3rd European Carbon Farming Summit**, *Oral presentation*, Padua, Italy.
- June 2025 **International Symposium on Climate, Finance and Sustainability (ISCFS)**, *Oral presentation*, Paris, France.
- Oct. 2024 **LabEx ARBRE Day**, *Oral presentation*, INRAE Champenoux, Nancy, France.
- Sept. 2024 **XXV BIOECON Conference**, *Oral presentation*, King's College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- July 2024 **26th IUFRO World Congress**, *Poster*, Stockholm, Sweden.
- June 2024 **8th Workshop on Non-Market Valuation (WONV)**, *Oral presentation*, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK.
- June 2024 **2nd Action versus Inaction Facing Climate Change (AICC) Conference**, *Poster*, Strasbourg, France.
- June 2023 **28th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE)**, *Oral presentation*, Limassol, Cyprus.

Seminars

- June 2025 **Research Seminar**, *Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG)*, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

Advanced Training

- July 2025 **13th Agreenium International Research School (EIR-A)**, INRAE, Nancy, France.
- July 2024 **Summer School for Systems Modelling**, *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)*, Laxenburg, Austria.
- Oct. 2024 **Advanced Choice Modelling Training**, *Choice Modelling Academy*, AgroParisTech, Palaiseau, France.
- June 2024 **12th Agreenium International Research School (EIR-A)**, INRAE, Montpellier, France.
- Sept. 2023 **Advanced Choice Modelling Training**, *Choice Modelling Academy*, Online.

Teaching

- Nov. 2024 **Regulation of Ecosystem Services – Market-Based Instruments and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)**, *AgroParisTech, M.Sc. Forests and their Environment (FEN)*, Nancy, France.
- Nov. 2024 **Introduction to Stated Preference Methods for Ecosystem Services Valuation**, *AgroParisTech, M.Sc. Forests and their Environment (FEN)*, Nancy, France.

Awards

- 2024 **Highly Commended Paper Award**, *University of Leeds*, Issued for the working paper: *Polarised Preferences for Nature: Cross-Country Evidence on the Structure and Consequences of Valuation Heterogeneity*, presented at the 8th Workshop on Non-Market Valuation (WONV) conference in Leeds, UK.
- 2023 **Extraordinary Prize for Master's Degrees**, *University of Lleida*, Award for the best academic record in the academic year 2021/22.

Grants and Programmes

- 2025 **FOCUSED Seed Project Grant**, *AAP ARTEMIS*, Project grant (€ 15,000 total); € 2,000 allocated to survey expansion within one article, with additional involvement in broader project activities..
- 2025 **NYU CEAP Research Grant**, *New York University*, Support for survey data collection, € 5,000.
- 2024 **FairCarboN Research Exchange Grant**, *French National Research Agency*, Support for international exchange to the University of Cambridge, UK, € 7,000.
- 2024 **DrEAM Research Exchange Grant**, *University of Lorraine*, Support for international exchange to the University of Cambridge, UK, € 5,300.
- 2024 **ABIES Research Exchange Grant**, *AgroParisTech*, Support for international exchange to the University of Cambridge, UK, € 1,000.
- 2024–2026 **Agreenium (EIR-A Programme) — DESSE International Mobility Grant**, *Training and Research Alliance for Agriculture, Food, the Environment and Global Health*; *INRAE — DESSE*, Support for international exchange to the University of Cambridge, UK, € 2,000.
- 2022 **ORION Master's Grant**, *French National Research Agency*, Research scholarship for excellent foreign students, € 7,000.
- 2021 **ETSEA Grant Programme**, *University of Lleida*, Scholarship for students of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree in European Forestry, € 2,500.

Skills & Languages

- Software R, Julia, L^AT_EX, LimeSurvey, Ngene
- Methods Cost-Benefit Analysis, Partial Equilibrium Modelling (Armington), Systems Modelling, Actuarial Risk Modelling, Monte Carlo Simulation, Time Series Analysis (EWMA, AR(1)), Discrete Choice Experiments (D-efficient design, survey design, pre-testing), Random Utility Models (MNL, Mixed MNL, Latent Class MNL, WTP-space), Machine Learning (Random Forest, XGBoost, Gaussian Mixture Models, K-means), Spatial Analysis, Multiple Imputation
- Languages German (Native), English (Proficient), French (Basic)

Volunteering

- 2018–2019 **Campaign Leader & Social Media Team Member**, *Youth Political Organisation*, Dresden, Germany. Campaign team for the 2019 European Parliament and Saxony state elections. Organised public events on environmental and sustainability policy.

References

Jens Abildtrup, INRAE, BETA, Nancy, France. *PhD supervisor*.
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