

Summary

Applied environmental economist and forest scientist focused on public acceptance and integrity safeguards in forest ecosystem services markets.

Education

- 2023–Present **Ph.D. in Economics**, *AgroParisTech, BETA*, Nancy & Palaiseau, France.
Thesis: The price of nature: Public preferences and market integrity in ecosystem service markets.
- 2020–2022 **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's in European Forestry (M.Sc., Double Degree)**, *University of Eastern Finland; University of Lleida; INRAE, BETA*, Joensuu, Finland; Lleida, Spain; Nancy, France.
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).
- 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

- 2023–Present **Ph.D. Researcher in Economics**, *AgroParisTech, BETA*, Nancy & Palaiseau, France.
Activities:
- Quantify public preferences and willingness to pay (WTP) for PES using Discrete Choice Experiments and advanced econometric/ML techniques.
 - Analyse institutional trust and legitimacy, contrasting support for market-based instruments with state-led regulation.
 - Develop policy-relevant rules addressing impermanence and leakage in EU and national carbon markets.
- 2025–present **Visiting Scholar**, *Department of Land Economy, Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG), University of Cambridge*, Cambridge, UK.
Activities:
- Apply research insights to international policy debates, including regulatory proposals for the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF).
 - Participate in expert panels and seminars, providing evidence-based input on forest-based carbon policies.
 - Build cross-institutional collaborations and foster research networks bridging economics, law, and environmental governance.
- 2025–present **Research Fellow**, *Climate Economics Chair*, Paris, France.
Activities:
- Estimate demand cross-elasticities for alternative proteins and assess net environmental impacts of cultivated meat adoption.
 - Build cross-institutional collaboration.
- 2021–2024 **Research Associate, Research Assistant & Research Intern**, *INRAE, BETA; AgroParisTech; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU)*, Nancy, France; Vienna, Austria.
Activities:
- Evaluated market-based instruments for ecosystem services provision.
 - Delivered end-to-end DCE on forest ecosystem services in France and Austria.
 - Coordinated France–Austria collaboration and research visits.
- 2018–2019 **Research Assistant & Research Intern**, *Dresden University of Technology & Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)*, Dresden, Germany; Almería, Spain.
Activities:
- Conducted lab and field research on soil erosion (Institute of Soil Science, TU Dresden).
 - Contributed to bio-based flame retardant development (Institute of Plant and Wood Chemistry, TU Dresden).
 - Analysed run-off in experimental technosols (EEZA, CSIC Almería).

Skills & Languages

Software R (Advanced), \LaTeX (Advanced), LimeSurvey (Advanced)

Technical	Econometrics (e.g., Mixed and Latent Class Multinomial Logit models), Machine Learning (e.g., Random Forest, Gaussian Mixture Models, K-means clustering), Public Preference Assessment (Survey Development, Discrete Choice Experiments, Choice Modelling), Environmental Policy Analysis, Systems Modelling
Transferable	Project Management, Research Collaboration, Strategic Problem-Solving, Academic Writing
Languages	German (Native), English (Proficient), French (Basic)

Publications

- Published **Frings, O.**, Abildtrup, J., Montagné-Huck, C., Gorel, S., & Stenger, A. (2023). Do Individual PES Buyers Care About Additionality and Free-Riding? *Ecological Economics*, **212**, 107944. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2023.107944>
- Published Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., **Frings, O.**, Lehtonen, A., Schindlbacher, A., & Zavala, M. A. (2024). Carbon Farming in the European Forestry Sector. *From Science to Policy 17*. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/fs17>
- Under review Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., **Frings, O.**, Lehtonen, A., Puelzl, H., Schindlbacher, A., & Zavala, M. A. *A review of forest management practices potentially suitable for carbon farming in European forests*.
- Forthcoming **Frings, O.**, Abildtrup, J., Shanafelt, D. W., Lobianco, A., & Vacik, H. *Paying for nature in a polarised world: The political and socio-demographic drivers of support for forest ecosystem services*.
- Forthcoming **Frings, O.**, Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Chiti, T., Rey, A., Diaci, J., Lehtonen, A., Puelzl, H., Schindlbacher, A., Zavala, M. A., Kontoleon, A., & Delacote, P. *Forest offsets must be recast to avoid net climate harm*.
- Forthcoming **Frings, O.** *Governments or private initiatives: Where does public trust fall in forest ecosystem services policy?*
- Forthcoming Bry-Chevalier, T., & **Frings, O.** *Meat of the future: Consumer substitution and environmental impact of cell-based and plant-based proteins*.

Communications

Conferences and Workshops

- July 2025 **13th Agreenium International Research School (EIR-A)**, INRAE, Nancy, France.
- June 2025 **International Symposium on Climate, Finance and Sustainability (ISCFs)**, Paris, France.
- Oct. 2024 **LabEx ARBRE Day**, INRAE Champenoux, Nancy, France.
- Sept. 2024 **XXV BIOECON Conference**, King's College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- July 2024 **26th International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress**, Stockholm, Sweden.
- June 2024 **8th Workshop on non-market valuation (WONV) Conference**, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK.
- June 2024 **12th Agreenium International Research School (EIR-A)**, INRAE, Montpellier, France.
- June 2024 **2nd Action versus Inaction Facing Climate Change (AICC) Conference**, Strasbourg, France.

Seminars

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

Policy Engagements

- May 2025 **Invited Roundtable Speaker**, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge, UK.
Legal Blueprints for Tackling the Climate and Nature Crises.
- May 2025 **Expert Contributor**, *Co-design the Future(s) of Payments for Ecosystem Services in the EU*, Online.
- April 2025 **Invited Panellist**, *ThinkForest: Ask a Scientist – Carbon Farming in the European Forest Sector*, Online.
- Oct. 2024 **Invited Expert**, *ThinkForest: What Do We Know About Carbon Farming*, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU, Brussels.

Advanced Trainings and Summer Schools

- July 2024 **Summer School for Systems Modelling**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria.
80 hours of advanced training in mathematical and computational modelling for sustainability challenges. Developed and applied system models in team-based projects, enhancing skills in model design, implementation, and evaluation, while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and policy-oriented analysis.
- Oct. 2023 **Advanced Choice Modelling Training**, Choice Modelling Academy, AgroParisTech, Palaiseau, France.
29 hours of in-person training on discrete choice modelling techniques.
- Sept. 2023 **Advanced Choice Modelling Training**, Choice Modelling Academy, Online.
+40 hours of remote training on advanced discrete choice modelling and survey design.

Awards

- 2024 **Highly Commended Paper Award**, *University of Leeds*, Issued for the working paper: *Polarised preferences for carbon capture, biodiversity conservation and recreation in forests. A mixed methods approach*, 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 supporting multiple research components; €2,000 allocated to survey expansion within one article, with additional involvement in broader project activities., €15,000.
- 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, €7.000,00.
- 2024 **DrEAM Research Exchange Grant**, *University of Lorraine*, Support for international exchange to the University of Cambridge, UK, €5.300,00.
- 2024 **ABIES Research Exchange Grant**, *AgroParisTech*, Support for international exchange to the University of Cambridge, UK, €1.000,00.
- 2024 **Agreenium (EIR-A Path)**, *Training and Research Alliance for Agriculture, Food, the Environment and Global Health*, Grant, label, and training programme for international research exchange.
- 2022 **ORION Master's Grant**, *French National Research Agency*, Research scholarship for excellent foreign students, €7.000,00.
- 2021 **ETSEA Grant Programme**, *University of Lleida*, Scholarship for students of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree in European Forestry, €2.500,00.

Volunteering

- 2018–2019 **Campaign Leader & Social Media Team Member**, *Youth Political Organisation*, Dresden, Germany.
- Roles and Responsibilities:**
- Elected member of the campaign team, leading outreach efforts for the 2019 European Parliament and Saxony state elections, expanding outreach in rural areas to foster engagement with diverse communities.
 - Actively facilitated open discussions on environmental policy with sceptical groups, strengthening public understanding and support for sustainable policies through transparent dialogue.
 - Organised educational events on environmental and sustainability topics, enhancing the organisation's profile and deepening public engagement with science-based policy solutions.