

## Summary

Environmental economist and forest scientist with expertise in public preference assessment and policy development for carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation in forest ecosystems.

## Education

- 2023–Present **Ph.D. in Economics**, *AgroParisTech, BETA*, Nancy, France.  
**Thesis title:** Reconciling Forest Policies for Carbon Neutrality and Public Preferences Towards Ecosystem Services Provision: An Integrated Bio-Economic Modelling Approach.  
**Objective:** Analyse public support for ecosystem services policies and assess governance options to design cost-effective strategies for maximising the climate benefits of French forests by 2100.  
**Core tasks:**
- Assess public preferences for ecosystem services and policy frameworks through surveys and choice modelling.
  - Analyse policy tools for carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation in forest ecosystems.
  - Employ the national-scale Generalised Forest Sector Model (GenFSM) to simulate and evaluate policy scenarios, designing cost-effective strategies that harmonise carbon neutrality goals with public priorities and budget constraints.
- 2020–2022 **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree in European Forestry (M.Sc., Double Degree)**, *University of Eastern Finland (UEF); University of Lleida (UdL); INRAE, BETA*, Joensuu, Finland; Lleida, Spain; Nancy, France.  
**GPA:** 97%; **Focus:** 1<sup>st</sup> year at UEF: Resource economics and policy; 2<sup>nd</sup> year at UdL: Spatial and ecological modelling, exploring 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. Forest Sciences**, *Dresden University of Technology*, Dresden, Germany.  
**GPA:** 88%; **Focus:** Forest management with additional coursework in economics, political sciences, 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–present **Visiting Scholar**, *Department of Land Economy, Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG), University of Cambridge*, Cambridge, UK.  
**Activities:**
- Examining public support for environmental policies—ranging from command-and-control regulations to market-based instruments—designed to enhance carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation in forests.
- 2025–present **Associate Researcher**, *Climate Economics Chair*, Paris, France.  
**Activities:**
- Assessing consumer preferences for alternative meat products, estimating cross-elasticities, and evaluating the net environmental impact of cultivated meat adoption.
- 2023–Present **Ph.D. Researcher in Economics**, *AgroParisTech, BETA*, Nancy & Palaiseau, France.  
**Activities:**
- Designed and conducted public preference surveys, including Discrete Choice Experiments, applying advanced econometric and machine learning techniques.
  - Conducted in-depth analysis of policy instruments aimed at incentivising ecosystem services in European forests, evaluating their effectiveness and impact.
- Communication & Training:**
- Co-authored a policy report on the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) for the European Forest Institute (EFI); presented findings to EU Commission officials in Brussels.
  - Presented at six international conferences: BioEcon (Cambridge, UK), WONV (Leeds, UK), IUFRO (Stockholm, Sweden), EAERE (Limassol, Cyprus), FAERE (Montpellier, France), AICC (Strasbourg, France).
  - Participated in Complex Systems Modelling summer school at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria.
  - Completed two specialised choice modelling trainings with the Choice Modelling Academy.
- 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:**
- Assessed consumer preferences for forest ecosystem services in France and Austria using Discrete Choice Experiments; designed surveys, developed econometric models, analysed data, wrote and published a scientific article.
  - Evaluated market-based instruments for incentivising ecosystem services provision
  - Facilitated international research collaboration between French and Austrian institutions by organising research visits and coordinating a joint research project.

2018–2019 **Research Assistant & Research Intern**, *Dresden University of Technology & Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)*, Dresden, Germany; Almería, Spain.

**Activities:**

- Supported research on the role of microorganisms in soil erosion through laboratory experiments and field work at the Institute of Soil Science, Dresden University of Technology.
- Assisted in developing flame retardants from renewable raw materials, performing laboratory analyses at the Institute of Plant and Wood Chemistry, Dresden University of Technology.
- Conducted laboratory and field work on soil erosion and runoff in experimental technosols made from industrial and agricultural residues at the Experimental Station for Arid Zones (EEZA), CSIC Almería.

## Publications

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>

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>

## Skills & Languages

Software	R (Advanced), L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X (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)

## 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

- 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.

## Additional Experiences

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.