

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: Optimise the climate change mitigation performance of the French forest sector by 2100 at minimal cost to the French state, while incorporating public preferences for forest ecosystem services provision and governance.
Core tasks:
- Assess public preferences for ecosystem services and policy frameworks through surveys and choice modelling.
 - Contributing to the national-scale Generalised Forest Sector Model (GenFSM) by developing modules that simulate forest growth and mortality, and by translating forest state variables into ecosystem service indicators.
 - Employ the 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:** 1st year at UEF: Resource economics and policy; 2nd 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

- 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 Commission; presented findings to EU 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 ^A T _E 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 & Merit-Based Scholarships

June 2024	Highly Commended Paper Award , <i>University of Leeds</i> , Issued for the working paper: <i>Polarised preferences for carbon capture, biodiversity conservation and recreation in forests. A mixed methods approach</i> , presented at the 8th Workshop on Non-Market Valuation (WONV) conference in Leeds, UK.
March 2024	Agreenium (EIR-A Path) , <i>Training and Research Alliance for Agriculture, Food, the Environment and Global Health</i> , Grant, label, and training programme for international research exchange.
March 2023	Extraordinary Prize for Master's Degrees , <i>University of Lleida</i> , Award for the best academic record in the academic year 2021/22.
March 2022	ORION Master's Grant , <i>French National Research Agency</i> , Research scholarship for excellent foreign students.
September 2021	ETSEA Grant Programme , <i>University of Lleida</i> , Scholarship for students of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree in European Forestry.

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.