

Dr. Finn Ole Semrau

Postdoctoral Researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy focusing on industrial policy, green transition, global value chains, and FDI. Committed to rigorous empirical research and evidence-based policy advice.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH STAYS

- 10/2016 – **Doctor scientiarum politicarum (Dr. sc. pol.), summa cum laude**
03/2023 *Kiel University*
- Doctoral Program in Quantitative Economics
 - **Dissertation:** “Closer and Greener? Firms’ Global Value Chain Participation and Sustainability”
 - **Supervisors:** Prof. Aoife Hanley and Prof. Katrin Rehdanz
- 09/2023 – **Research stay**
12/2023 *European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC Seville), Spain*
- Directorate B – Fair and Sustainable Economy
 - Unit B.6 – Industrial Strategy, Skills and Technology Transfer
- 07/2022 **Research stay**
University of Ferrara, Italy
- **Host:** Prof. Massimiliano Mazzanti
- 10/2019 – **DAAD Research Fellowship**
12/2019 *Trinity College Dublin, Ireland*
- **Host:** Prof. Carol Newman
- 04/2013 – **M.Sc. Economics**
03/2016 *Kiel University*
- 10/2009 – **B.Sc. Economics**
03/2013 *Kiel University*
- 09/2011 – **Erasmus study abroad**
01/2012 *Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 10/2016 – **Researcher (Postdoctoral Researcher since 03/2023)**
present *Kiel Institute for the World Economy*
Research Group: Innovation and International Competition
- Deputy Research Head of the Industrial Policy Lab, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE)
 - Research on industrial policy, green transition, global value chains, and FDI
 - Author of peer-reviewed articles, working papers, and policy publications
 - Preparation of policy studies and expert input for the European Parliament, BMWE, UNIDO, the International Coffee Organization, and BMBF
 - Policy outreach, media engagement, and collaboration in externally funded research projects

- 2016 – present **Self-employed Consultant / International Expert**
- Research, monitoring, evaluation, training, and quality assurance in externally funded international projects
 - Assignments for organizations and consultancies including GIZ, GFA, and other international project partners
 - Roles including international expert, team leader, coordinator, and trainer
- 01/2016 – 06/2016 **Intern**
GFA Consulting Group GmbH, Hamburg and Kisumu, Kenya
Department: Agricultural Economy and Rural Development

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

- Semrau, F. O. (2026): “Upstreamness, Foreign Environmental Regulation and CO₂ Emissions in Indian Manufacturing Firms”, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 138, 103324.
- Kannen, P.; Semrau, F. O.; Steglich, F. (2026): “Green Gifts from Abroad? FDI and Firms’ Green Management”, *Journal of International Business Policy*.
- Kleemann, L.; Semrau, F. O. (2025): “Connecting the Unconnected? Social Ties and ICT Adoption among Smallholder Farmers in Developing Countries”, *Technological Forecasting & Social Change*, 213, 123985.
- Görlich, D.; Hanley, A.; Liu, W.-H.; Semrau, F. O. (2025): “Fostering the Development of the Coffee Global Value Chain”, *Journal of International Development*, 1–24.
- Herkenhoff, P.; Krautheim, S.; Semrau, F. O.; Steglich, F. (2024): “Corporate Social Responsibility along the Global Value Chain”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 167, 103236.
 – Award: *Kiel Institute Best Paper Award 2024*
- Meißner, L.; Peterson, S.; Semrau, F. O. (2024): “It’s Not a Sprint, It’s a Marathon: Reviewing Governmental R&D Support for Environmental Innovation”, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 1–27.
- Hanley, A.; Semrau, F. O. (2022): “Stepping Up to the Mark? Firms’ Export Activity and Environmental Innovation in 14 European Countries”, *Industry & Innovation*, 29(5), 672–700.
- Semrau, F. O.; Thiele, R. (2017): “Brazil’s Development Cooperation: Following in China’s and India’s Footsteps?”, *Journal of International Development*, 29(3), 287–307.

Book Chapters:

- Semrau, F. O. (2023): “Firms’ Global Value Chain Participation and Its Environmental Performance – A Review of the Empirical Literature”, in: *Handbook on Innovation, Society and the Environment*, eds. Diaz Lopez, Mazzanti and Zoboli, pp. 125–139.

ONGOING RESEARCH

- Görg, H.; Hecker, L.; Semrau, F. O.; Wang, Z.: “Unveiling the Green Trail: FDI, Global Value Chains, and Firm Pollution in China”, submission planned for 2026.
- Semrau, F. O.; Berendsohn, R.: “Green Public Financial Support and the Policy Mix: Drivers of Firms’ Environmental Innovation”, submission planned for 2026.
- Schoel, B.; Semrau, F. O.; Zhang, J.: “China’s Industrial Policy: Activating the Machine for Hydrogen”, early-stage manuscript.

SELECTED POLICY AND TRANSFER PUBLICATIONS

- Binder, J.; Dohse, D.; Görg, H.; Liu, W.-H.; Schoel, B.; Semrau, F. O. (2026): “Ambition Without Precision: Why the Industrial Accelerator Act Falls Short”, *Kiel Institute for the World Economy, IP Lab Policy Brief*, Issue 01.
- Mahlkow, H.; Semrau, F. O.; Steglich, F.; Pahl, S.; Stucki, V. (2025): “Resilient Global Supply Chains in Times of Escalating Trade Costs”, *United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Insights on Industrial Development*, Policy Brief, Issue 26.
- Peterson, S.; Semrau, F. O. (2024): “Innovationspolitik für die Transformation zur Klimaneutralität”, *Wirtschaftsdienst*, 104(5).
- Hanley, A.; Semrau, F. O.; Thiele, R.; Steglich, F. (2023): “The Cumulative Effect of Due Diligence EU Legislation on SMEs”, *European Parliament – Directorate-General for External Policies*, September 2023.
- Semrau, F. O. (2023): “Greening Global Value Chains: Emerging Countries’ Upstream Industries”, *United Nations Industrial Development Organization*.
- Hanley, A.; Hornok, C.; Semrau, F. O.; Steglich, F. (2019): “Responsible Production in Global Value Chains: A Roadmap”, *T20 Policy Brief*.

PRESENTATIONS AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT (SELECTED)

Conferences:

- GeoInno 2026 (*Budapest, Hungary*)
- 2nd Kiel-Göttingen-CEPR Conference on China in the Global Economy 2025 (*Berlin, Germany*)
- European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE), annual conferences: 2024 (*Leuven, Belgium*), 2021 (*online*)
- European Trade Study Group (ETSG), annual conferences: 2024 (*Athens, Greece*), 2019 (*Bern, Switzerland*)
- Verein für Socialpolitik, annual meetings: 2022 (*Basel, Switzerland*)
- Research Conference on “Sustainability in Global Value Chains”, organized among others by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 2021 (*online*)

Workshops and Seminars:

- Invited seminar at Global China Conversation 2026 (*Online*)
- Invited seminar at the German Council of Economic Experts 2026 (*Berlin, Germany*)
- Aarhus-Kiel Institute Workshop 2025, 2024, 2018 and 2017 (*Sandbjerg, Denmark*)
- 2nd Workshop of the Society for Eco-Innovation Studies 2024 (*Paris, France*)
- European Commission JRC Industrial Innovation and Dynamics Seminar 2023 (*Seville, Spain*)
- Invited Department of Economics and Management seminar, University of Ferrara 2022 (*Ferrara, Italy*)
- Göttingen Workshop on International Economics 2022 and 2020 (*Göttingen, Germany*)
- Trinity College Economic Seminar 2019 (*Dublin, Ireland*)

Policy Advice, Business Exchange, and Media:

- Invited expert workshop on the Industrial Accelerator Act, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (2026)
- Organizer and participant, Policy Dinner on Industrial Policy Design with representatives from academia, industry, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (2025, 2026)
- France’s National Committee for the Evaluation of Innovation Policies, internal meeting (2025, *Paris, France, online*)

- Participation in and co-organization of the panel discussion “Hydrogen Valley Norddeutschland? Green Transition in a Globalized World”, *PowerNet 2024* (Neumünster, Germany)
- Keynotes on green structural transition and hydrogen at regional policy events (Kiel, Germany)
- Expert exchange with BMW, BMBF, BMZ, BMW Group, GIZ, and international coffee-sector organizations
- Media appearances (print, podcast, TV) on industrial policy, green transition, and commodity markets, including Deutschlandfunk, NDR, MDR, Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, Handelsblatt, Süddeutsche Zeitung, ZDF Heute, Tagesschau.de, and Semafor

THIRD-PARTY FUNDING, TEACHING, AND REVIEWING

Third-Party Funding Acquisition:

- 12/2025: Contributor and project leader/applicant in the submitted DFG Research Unit proposal *HERMES – Holistic Evaluation and Research Method Development for Evolving Hydrogen Supply Chains*, leading project H2-05, “Geopolitical Risks and Markets Evaluation”.
- 09/2024–08/2027: *Igniting H2 Transport Innovation Ecosystems in the North Sea Region* (EU): acquisition of approx. €248,569 to promote hydrogen innovation in the North Sea region. Co-applicant.
- 08/2022–07/2025: *The Climate Policy Contribution of Research and Innovation Measures* (BMBF/DLR): acquisition of €519,440. Co-applicant.
- 03/2023–07/2023: *The Cumulative Effect of Due Diligence EU* (EU): acquisition of €39,900. Co-applicant.
- 10/2023–09/2025: *Global Producers in China* (Fritz Thyssen Foundation): contributed to the research-related proposal writing for a successful grant of €191,562.

Teaching Experience and Supervision:

- Teaching Assistant support (2026): “Environmental Economics Field Experiments”, *University of Zurich*.
- Two guest lectures (2025): “Hydrogen in the World Economy and the Role of Industrial Policy”, *Climate & Energy Policy* (course taught by Sonja Peterson), Kiel University.
- Höller, T. M. (2023): “Carbon Neutrality in the Transport Sector – Green Innovations and Policy Instruments.” Second supervisor of the master’s thesis at Kiel University.
- Assimagbe, A. R. (2023): “Firms’ Export Activities and the Adoption of Environmental Actions in High- and Low-Income Countries.” Second supervisor of the master’s thesis at Kiel University.

Representation:

Deputy for Prof. Rickels on the Council of the Schleswig-Holstein Competence Center for Energy Transition Research.

Reviewing:

Research Policy (2x); Industry & Innovation; Review of World Economics (6x); Journal of Technology in Society; Journal of International Development; Journal of Economics and Statistics; Energy Sources, Part B: Economics, Planning, and Policy; *Economia Politica* (2x); Junior Management Science