

sarah meier | curriculum vitae

Department of Management, Technology, and Economics
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profile

I am an applied environmental economist with a background in climate sciences. My research sits at the intersection of these fields, with a focus on natural hazards, land-use, and biodiversity. I address policy-relevant questions using large-scale environmental data, satellite imagery, and causal inference methods. My work and commentary have appeared in international media, including *The New York Times* and the *Financial Times*.

employment

ETH Zurich, SNSF Ambizione Fellow <i>Department of Management, Technology, and Economics</i>	Zurich (CH) <i>Jan 2026 – present</i>
University of Exeter, Postdoctoral Research Fellow <i>Dragon Capital Research Programme on Biodiversity Economics</i>	Exeter (UK) <i>Oct 2023 – Dec 2025</i>
University of Birmingham, Research Fellow <i>PhD in Environmental Economics: "Essays on the Economics of Wildfires"</i> Examined by Dr. Sefi Roth and Prof. David Maddison (awarded with no corrections)	Birmingham (UK) <i>Sep 2020 – Sep 2023</i>

education

Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research <i>Master of Science in Climate Sciences w. Specification in Economics (6 6)</i>	Bern (CH) <i>Feb 2019 – Jul 2020</i>
University of Bern <i>Bachelor of Science in Economics (5.13 6)</i>	Bern (CH) <i>Sep 2015 – Feb 2019</i>
Bern University of the Arts <i>Master of Arts in Music, Classical Trumpet (5.65 6)</i>	Bern (CH) <i>Sep 2011 – Jun 2013</i>

publications

Meier, S. & Strobl, E. (2026) The impact of wildfire smoke on local avian biodiversity. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. 139, 103379.

Kelley, D. I. et al. (2025), State of Wildfires 2024–2025. *Earth System Science Data*. 17(10), 5377–5488.

Meier, S., Strobl, E. & Elliott, R.J.R. (2025) The impact of wildfire smoke exposure on excess mortality and later-life socioeconomic outcomes: The Great Fire of 1910. *Cliometrica*. 19(2), 279–342.

Jones, M. W. et al. (2024), State of Wildfires 2023–2024. *Earth System Science Data*. 16(8), 3601–3685.

Meier, S., Elliott, R.J.R. & Strobl, E. (2023) The regional economic impact of wildfires: Evidence from Southern Europe. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. 118, 102787.

Meier, S., Strobl, E., Elliott, R.J.R., & Kettridge, N. (2023) Cross-country risk quantification of extreme wildfires in Mediterranean Europe. *Risk Analysis*, 43(9), 1745–1762.

working papers

Meier, S., Balmford, B. & Inkinen, V. (2026) Endogenous targeting and the additionality of conservation.

Groom, B. et al. (2026) Bringing the economics of biodiversity into policy and decision-making: A target and cost-based approach to pricing biodiversity. (*R & R at Nature Sustainability*)

Meier, S., Balmford, B., Faccioli, M., & Groom, B. (2024) Public and expert preferences for biodiversity metrics and the implications for shadow pricing. (*R & R at JEEM*)

selected work in progress

- Forest fragmentation and zoonotic diseases (with Neha Deopa)
- Wildfire Smoke and Adaptation: Out-Migration from California (with Christopher Knittel, and Benjamin Krebs)
- Forecasting additionality in dynamic forests (with Ville Inkinen, Ben Balmford, Zdeněk Plešek, Charles Palmer, Diana Weinhold, Lykke Andersen, Fabiana Argandoña, Sabrina Eisenbarth and Ben Groom)

awards, grants & fellowships

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF): Ambizione Fellowship (PZ001_232901)

"Policy decisions in connected systems: Forest loss, biodiversity and human well-being"
(CHF 720,000)

Sep 2025

British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (SRG2425\251222)

"Forest fragmentation and the burden of zoonotic diseases" (£10,000)

Jun 2025

Economic Seed Funding

University of Exeter (£800)

Jan/Jun 2024

Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellow in ITN

University of Birmingham, School of Geography, Earth and
Environmental Sciences

Jul 2020 - Sep 2023

2020 Oeschger Young Scientist's Prize

*for achieving the second-highest GPA in the Master's program
of the Graduate School of Climate Sciences at the University of Bern*

2021

conferences & invited presentations

2026: LSE Workshop for Early Career Women in Economic Geography and Spatial Economics, Paris Environmental Economics Workshop, Warwick Women in Environmental Economics Workshop, CESifo Junior Workshop on Energy and Climate Economics, CESifo Area Conference on Energy and Climate Economics, INRAE/Paris-Saclay Biodiversity Economics Workshop

2025: Congress of the Latin American and the Caribbean Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (LAERE), EAERE, Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, 26th BioEcon Conference, NERC/ESRC Economics of Biodiversity Conference, LSE Environment Week, Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop at Illinois

2024: NERC/ESRC Economics of Biodiversity Conference, MIT Climate Change Adaptation in Response to Wildfires Workshop (invited), AERE, European Urban Economics Association, LAGV Marseille, EAERE, Data-Intensive Research Conference NDIRA, UCSB Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics, Swiss Workshop on Environmental Resource and Energy Economics, University of Birmingham Seminar "Quantitative Methods for Finance" by the School of Mathematics & the Royal Statistical Society (invited)

2023: EAERE-ETH Winter School on Natural Resources and Development in Resource-rich Countries, Envecon23, VUA Big Data and Economics Research Network: Workshop on Urban and Environmental Challenges, EAERE

2022: 15th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics, 13th Columbia Interdisciplinary PhD Workshop in Sustainable Development, Cambridge Land Economy Early Career Researcher's Conference, EGU General Assembly, Fire & Climate Conference, LSE Shifting Landscapes

2021: 12th Columbia Interdisciplinary Workshop in Sustainable Development, 16th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit, 2nd Oxford meeting on Environmental Social Sciences: Challenges and Solutions for Sustainable Development

further details

Statistical Software: Python, R, STATA

Research Tools: L^AT_EX, ArcGIS, Git/GitHub, Google Earth Engine, RMarkdown, Java (data scraping)

Peer Reviewing: Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Environmental and Resource Economics, Nature Communications, Economics of Disasters and Climate Change, Fire Ecology

Editorial Roles: SI Environmental and Resource Economics

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Italian (basic), Spanish (basic)

references

Prof. Robert J.R. Elliott

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University of Birmingham

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Prof. Eric Strobl

Department of Economics

University of Bern

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Prof. Ben Groom

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University of Exeter

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Prof. Sefi Roth

Department of Geography and Environment

London School of Economics and Political Science

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