

Dr. Finn Ole Semrau

Postdoctoral Researcher | Deputy Research Head, Industrial Policy Lab

Kiel Institute for the World Economy | Hamburg, Germany | FinnOle.Semrau@KielInstitut.de

Research Fields: International Economics · Industrial Policy · Environmental & Innovation Economics · Global Value Chains & FDI

Academic Positions

03/2023–present	Postdoctoral Researcher <i>Kiel Institute for the World Economy</i> , Research Group Innovation and International Competition Deputy Research Head of the Industrial Policy Lab since 06/2025
10/2016–03/2023	Researcher and Doctoral Researcher <i>Kiel Institute for the World Economy</i>

Education

10/2016–03/2023	Dr. sc. pol., summa cum laude <i>Kiel University</i> , Doctoral Program in Quantitative Economics Dissertation: “Closer and Greener? Firms’ Global Value Chain Participation and Sustainability”
04/2013–03/2016	M.Sc. Economics <i>Kiel University</i>
10/2009–03/2013	B.Sc. Economics <i>Kiel University</i> Erasmus exchange: Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal, 09/2011–01/2012

Research Visits

09/2023–12/2023	European Commission, Joint Research Centre Seville, Spain; Unit B.6 – Industrial Strategy, Skills and Technology Transfer
07/2022	University of Ferrara Ferrara, Italy; host: Prof. Massimiliano Mazzanti
10/2019–12/2019	Trinity College Dublin Dublin, Ireland; DAAD Research Fellowship; host: Prof. Carol Newman

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Selected publications

- **Semrau, F. O.** (2026): “Upstreamness, Foreign Environmental Regulation and CO₂ Emissions in Indian Manufacturing Firms”, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 138, 103324.
- Herkenhoff, P.; Krauthaim, S.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Steglich, F. (2024): “Corporate Social Responsibility along the Global Value Chain”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 167, 103236.

Further publications

- Kannen, P.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Steglich, F. (2026): “Green Gifts from Abroad? FDI and Firms’ Green Management”, *Journal of International Business Policy*, 9, 82–101.
- Meissner, L. P.; Peterson, S.; **Semrau, F. O.** (2026): “It’s Not a Sprint, It’s a Marathon: Reviewing Governmental R&D Support for Environmental Innovation”, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 69(1), 1–27.
- Hanley, A.; Liu, W.-H.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Görlich, D. (2026): “Climbing the Coffee Global Value Chain—Three Decades of Trade and Upgrading”, *Journal of International Development*, 38(1), 88–111.
- 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.
- 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.

Other Academic Publications

- **Semrau, F. O.** (2023): “Firms’ Global Value Chain Participation and Its Environmental Performance: A Review of the Empirical Literature”, in Díaz López, F. J.; Mazzanti, M.; Zoboli, R. (eds.), *Handbook on Innovation, Society and the Environment*, Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 125–139.

Work in Progress

- Görg, H.; Hecker, L.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Wang, Z.: “Unveiling the Green Trail: FDI, Global Value Chains, and Firm Pollution in China.” *Under review*.
- Schoel, B.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Zhang, J.: “Tournament Industrial Policy: China’s Subnational Competition for Hydrogen Leadership.”
- **Semrau, F. O.**: “Green Public Financial Support and the Policy Mix: Drivers of Firms’ Environmental Innovation.”
- Dohse, D.; Hanley, A.; Raasch, C.; **Semrau, F. O.**: “Disentangling the Effects of Domestic Customer Collaboration on Exports: The Information and Innovation Effects.”

Selected Policy Publications

- Schöl, B.; **Semrau, F. O.** (2026): “China-Schock 2.0 trifft Deutschland: Was kann der Industrial Accelerator Act leisten?”, *Wirtschaftsdienst*, 106(9).
- Binder, J.; Dohse, D.; Görg, H.; Liu, W.-H.; Schoel, B.; **Semrau, F. O.** (2026): “The EU Industrial Accelerator Act: Strategic Ambitions and Design Challenges”, *Intereconomics*, 61(4), 240–248.
- Mahlkow, H.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Steglich, F.; Pahl, S.; Stucki, V. (2025): “Resilient Global Supply Chains in Times of Escalating Trade Costs”, *UNIDO Insights on Industrial Development*, Policy Brief No. 26.
- Peterson, S.; **Semrau, F. O.** (2024): “Innovationspolitik für die Transformation zur Klimaneutralität”, *Wirtschaftsdienst*, 104(5), 301–305.
- Thiele, R.; Hanley, A.; **Semrau, F. O.**; Steglich, F. (2023): “The Cumulative Effect of Due Diligence EU Legislation on SMEs”, *European Parliament*, Directorate-General for External Policies, PE 702.597.
- **Semrau, F. O.** (2023): “Greening Global Value Chains: Emerging Countries’ Upstream Industries”, *UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform*, July.

Grants & Research Funding

2024–2027	Igniting H2 Transport Innovation Ecosystems in the North Sea Region European Union; Kiel Institute’s share ≈ €248,569; co-applicant
2023–2026	Global Producers in China Fritz Thyssen Foundation; Kiel Institute’s share ≈ €191,562; contributor to research-related proposal development
2022–2025	The Climate Policy Contribution of Research and Innovation Measures BMBF/DLR; Kiel Institute’s share ≈ €519,440; co-applicant
2023	The Cumulative Effect of Due Diligence EU Legislation on SMEs European Union; Kiel Institute’s share ≈ €39,900; co-applicant
<i>Submitted proposal:</i>	
2025	DFG Research Unit proposal <i>HERMES – Holistic Evaluation and Research Method Development for Evolving Hydrogen Supply Chains</i> ; project leader/applicant for H2-05, “Geopolitical Risks and Markets Evaluation”.

Awards & Fellowships

2026–2028	Add-on Fellowship Joachim Herz Foundation; ≈ €15,000
2024	Kiel Institute Best Paper Award For “Corporate Social Responsibility along the Global Value Chain”, published in the <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> ; together with Frauke Steglich; €5,000
2019	Best Paper Award For “Stepping Up to the Mark? Firms’ Export Activity and Environmental Innovation in 14 European Countries”, subsequently published in <i>Industry & Innovation</i> ; Centre for Research in Circular Economy, Innovation and SMEs Workshop, University of Ferrara; prize: funded research stay
2019	DAAD Research Fellowship Research stay at Trinity College Dublin; funding for accommodation and travel

Invited Seminars & Selected Conferences

Invited seminars

- Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, July 2027 (scheduled), Paris, France
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, November 2026 (scheduled), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- German Council of Economic Experts, 2026, Berlin, Germany
- European Commission JRC Industrial Innovation and Dynamics Seminar, 2023, Seville, Spain
- Department of Economics and Management, University of Ferrara, 2022, Ferrara, Italy
- Trinity College Economic Seminar, 2019, Dublin, Ireland

Selected conferences

- World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists, 2026, Lisbon, Portugal
- DRUID Conference, 2026 and 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark
- GDE Conference and 1st Conference of the EDEG, 2026, Kiel, Germany
- GeoInno, 2026, Budapest, Hungary
- Kiel–Göttingen–CEPR Conference on China in the Global Economy, 2025, Berlin, Germany
- European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, 2024, 2021 and 2019
- European Trade Study Group, 2024 and 2019
- Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Meeting, 2022 and 2019
- Research Conference on “Sustainability in Global Value Chains”, co-organized by UNIDO, 2021, online
- Economic Geography and International Trade Research Meeting, 2020, Kiel, Germany
- PEGNet Conference, 2019, Bonn, Germany

Selected workshops

- Symposium on “Europe’s Industrial Policy Options in the Digital, Green and Geoeconomic Transitions”, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, 2026, Hannover, Germany
- Aarhus–Kiel Workshop, 2025, 2024, 2018 and 2017, Denmark
- Society on Environmental Innovations Workshop, 2024
- Göttinger Workshop “Internationale Wirtschaftsbeziehungen”, 2022, 2020 and 2019, Göttingen, Germany
- SEEDS Annual Workshop, 2020, online
- Centre for Research in Circular Economy, Innovation and SMEs Workshop, 2019, Ferrara, Italy
- INFER Workshop on Environment and Development Economics, 2019, Coimbra, Portugal

Policy Engagement & Outreach

- Invited speaker, “Made in Europe? Industrial Policy in Global Competition”, Deutsche Bundesbank’s Forum, Kiel, 2026.
- Invited panellist, Global China Conversation: “The Industrial Accelerator Act: Can the EU Reshape Its Economic Relations with China in Strategic Sectors?”, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, online, 2026.
- Invited participant, expert workshop on the Industrial Accelerator Act and the Clean Industrial Deal, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 2026.
- Organizer and participant, policy dinners on industrial policy design with representatives from academia, industry and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 2025–2026.
- Invited speaker, “Innovation Policy for the Transition to Climate Neutrality”, France Stratégie, National Committee for the Evaluation of Innovation Policies, 2025.
- Organizer, speaker and panellist, “Hydrogen Valley Northern Germany: Green Transformation in a Globalized World”, PowerNet, Neumünster, 2024.
- Invited keynote speaker and panellist, mid-term review of the Sustainable Development Goals, state government of Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, 2019.
- Expert exchanges with BMW, BMFTR, BMZ, BMW Group, Bosch, GIZ and international organisations on industrial policy, green transformation, global value chains and development.
- Media interviews and commentary on industrial policy, green transition and commodity markets, including *Deutschlandfunk*, *NDR*, *MDR*, *Die Zeit*, *Der Spiegel*, *ProSieben*, *Tagesspiegel Background*, *Handelsblatt*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *ZDF Heute*, *Tagesschau.de* and *Semafor*.

Teaching & Supervision

- Teaching Assistant, “Environmental Economics Field Experiments”, University of Zurich, 2026.
- Guest lectures, “Hydrogen in the World Economy and the Role of Industrial Policy”, course *Climate & Energy Policy*, Kiel University, 2025.
- Second supervisor, Master’s thesis: T. M. Höller, “Carbon Neutrality in the Transport Sector – Green Innovations and Policy Instruments”, Kiel University, 2023.
- Second supervisor, Master’s thesis: A. R. Assimagbe, “Firms’ Export Activities and the Adoption of Environmental Actions in High- and Low-Income Countries”, Kiel University, 2022.

Academic Service

Representation

- Deputy for Prof. Rickels on the Council of the Schleswig-Holstein Competence Center for Energy Transition Research, since 06/2025.
- PhD Students’ Spokesperson, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, 04/2017–11/2019.

Workshop Organisation

- Kiel Institute Workshop on “The Role of Public Research and Innovation Measures on Mitigating Climate Change”, Kiel, Germany, 2023.

Refereeing

Numbers in parentheses indicate multiple manuscripts reviewed.

Nature Communications; *Research Policy* (2); *Industry & Innovation*; *Review of World Economics* (6); *Technology in Society*; *Journal of International Development*; *Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade*; *Journal of Economics and Statistics*; *Energy Sources, Part B: Economics, Planning, and Policy*; *Economia Politica* (2); *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*; *Junior Management Science*.

Additional Professional Experience

06/2016–present	Independent Consultant / International Expert More than 20 assignments and over 500 consulting days since 2016, including repeated engagements with GIZ and GFA Consulting Group, and an assignment for UNIDO. Research, survey design, statistical sampling, monitoring and evaluation in international development projects. Roles include team leader, coordinator and trainer, with responsibility for data collection and quality assurance. Field experience in Mozambique and Kenya.
01/2016–06/2016	Intern, Agricultural Economy and Rural Development <i>GFA Consulting Group GmbH</i> , Hamburg and Kisumu, Kenya