

Jakob Nitschke

Research Fellow

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Profile

Researcher in economic geography with expertise in extractivism, critical raw materials, and socio-ecological conflicts. I analyse how EU and global decarbonisation strategies generate new forms of dependency, geopolitical contestation, and territorial conflict. My research combines satellite-based environmental assessment, macro/micro datasets, and fieldwork with affected communities. My background integrates heterodox economics with decolonial perspectives, supported by experience in academic communication, workshop design, and collaborative research in Europe and Latin America.

Experience

- Nov 2024 – Oct 2025 **Research Fellow (Assegno di Ricerca)**, *Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”*, Rome, Italy.
Dipartimento di Metodi e Modelli per l’Economia, il Territorio e la Finanza (MEMOTEF).
- Built and maintained a multi-source database covering all Italian municipalities, integrating socio-economic indicators, land-use data, environmental metrics, and territorial classifications for spatial political economy analysis.
 - Conducted satellite-based environmental assessments of lithium extraction regions in South America, combining Earth observation, hydrological layers, and land-cover dynamics to analyse socio-ecological pressures in resource frontiers.
 - Carried out mixed-method research on socio-ecological conflicts, integrating geospatial analysis, qualitative interviews, and decolonial approaches to examine governance, resistance, and territorial transformations in extractive settings.
- Jan 2024 – 2026 **Council Member**, *European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE)*.
- Lead organiser of the 2025 EAEPE Summer School: *“Reimagining Migration Economics through a Pluralist Lens”*, including programme design, lecturer coordination, and development of teaching modules at the intersection of political economy, migration, and pluralist economics.
 - Contribute to academic governance and strategic communication by coordinating the Association’s Social Media Team, leading visual identity redesign, and establishing a newsletter format.
- 2021 – 2024 **Doctoral Researcher (Vinci 2021 Programme)**, *University of Naples “Parthenope” & Université Côte d’Azur*, Naples (IT) & Nice (FR).
Thesis: *Within-industry emission heterogeneity and industrial dynamics of decarbonisation*.
- Quantitative analysis of firm-level emission intensity and product portfolios using detailed Portuguese manufacturing microdata (2004–2021).
 - Showed how firm-level product choices shape emission outcomes and argued that decarbonisation requires structural, democratically guided production decisions rather than reliance on efficiency-based techno-optimism.
 - Supervision: Alessandro Sapio and Mauro Napoletano.
- Jun 2024 – Aug 2024 **Research Assistant**, *Kingston University London, Department of Economics*, London, UK.
- Contributed to a empirical project on the international effects of climate legislation
 - Conducted literature synthesis and data preparation for analyses of carbon leakage, competitiveness, and the global diffusion of climate policy.

- Apr 2021 – **Research Assistant**, *Ruhr Universität Bochum (RUB)*, Bochum, Germany.
 Nov 2021 ○ Design, implementation, and qualitative analysis of stakeholder interviews on mobility cooperatives aimed at improving public transport in the Ruhr region.
- Apr 2021 – **Research Assistant**, *RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research*, Essen, Germany.
 Nov 2021 ○ Supported an empirical project on seven decades of U.S. generational wealth dynamics (SCF+ microdata), contributing to data harmonisation, cohort panel construction, and analysis of saving behaviour, income stagnation, and within-cohort wealth inequality.
- Jun 2021 – **Research Assistant**, *Kingston University London, Department of Economics*, London, UK.
 Aug 2021 ○ Research on decarbonisation efforts and emission-reduction strategies in the British Higher Education sector.
- Apr 2020 – **Senior Editor**, *Exploring Economics*, Germany (remote).
 2023 ○ Oversaw onboarding and coordination of the international editorial team and contributed to strategic content development.
 ○ Led the Complexity Economics Working Group and supported activities in the Macro-Finance Working Group.
 ○ Contributed to editorial content, platform curation, and knowledge dissemination across the project's global network.
- Apr 2018 – **Intern**, *German–Iranian Chamber of Commerce*, Tehran, Iran.
 Jun 2018 ○ Conducted market, sectoral, and investment analysis for German manufacturing companies.
- Sep 2017 – **Intern**, *German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)*, Berlin, Germany.
 Nov 2017 ○ Research on financial regulation and the organisation's position on Basel regulatory frameworks.
- Jun 2017 – **Intern**, *NUMOV e.V. – Near and Middle East Association*, Berlin, Germany.
 Sep 2017 ○ Supported regional trade and investment activities at Germany's Near and Middle East business association.
- Sep 2015 – **Student Assistant**, *Chair of Business Education and Management Training, TU Dresden*, Dresden, Germany.
 Jun 2017 ○ Assisted with teaching preparation, research tasks, and administrative coordination.

Education

- 2021 – 2024 **PhD in Economics (Vinci 2021 Programme)**, *University of Naples "Parthenope" & Université Côte d'Azur*.
 Thesis: *Within-Industry Heterogeneity of Emission Productivity and Product Portfolios*.
- 2020 – 2021 **Master of Arts in Socioeconomics**, *Universität Duisburg-Essen*, Germany.
 Programme terminated early to start PhD. Major subjects: Complexity Economics and Agent-Based Modelling, Macroeconomics, Political Economy, Philosophy of Science, Distribution, Growth and Ecology, Intermediate Econometrics.
- 2019 – 2020 **Master of Arts in Political Economy**, *Kingston University London*, UK.
 Degree awarded with prize for best overall performance in economics. Major subjects: Macroeconomic Theory and Policy, Political Economy, Applied Econometrics, Economic Change and Ideas.
- 2019 **Persian Language and Culture Studies**, *University of Tehran (Dekhoda Institute)*, Tehran, Iran.
 Six-month course in Persian language and culture.
- 2014 – 2018 **Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics**, *TU Dresden*, Germany.
 Major: Economic Policy. Subjects included Industrial Organisation, Labour Markets, Demographic Change, Allocation Theory and Policy, Political Economy, Development Economics, Advanced Macroeconomics.

Publications

- Journal article Scognamiglio, G., **Nitschke, J.**, Bressan, G. (2025). *Socio-Environmental Conflicts in the European Mountain Areas: Insights from the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice*. *Journal of Alpine Research / Revue de géographie alpine*, 113(2). doi:10.4000/15d2i.
- Online article Nitschke, J., **Manfredi, M.** (2025). Una critica radicale al cuore del capitalismo verde. *Jacobin Italia*.
- Online article Manfredi, M., **Nitschke, J.** (2025). Una crítica radical al corazón del capitalismo verde. *Jacobin América Latina*.
- PhD Thesis **Nitschke, J.** (2025). *Within-Industry Heterogeneity of Emission Productivity and Product Portfolios*. University of Naples 'Parthenope' & Université Côte d'Azur.
- Conference Proceedings Manfredi, M.; **Nitschke, J.** (2024). *The hidden truths of the Twin Transition – CRMs, extractivism & indigenous dispossession*. ESEE-Degrowth 2024: Science, Technology, and Innovation beyond growth. Cultivating collective creativity for a sustainable future. Pontevedra, 18-21 June 2024. ISBN 978-84-1188-045-9, pp. 797-800
- Journal article Eskander, S. M., **Nitschke, J.** (2021). Energy use and CO₂ emissions in the UK universities: an extended Kaya identity analysis. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 309, 127199. doi:10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.127199.
- Conference essay **Nitschke, J.** (2023). Realities of the Twin-Transition: EU Research Funding, Artificial Intelligence, and Techno-Optimism. In *Proceedings of the 29th Annual Conference on Alternative Economic Policy in Europe*.

Organised workshops

- 2026 *Workshop on Postcapitalist Perspectives: Present Realities and Future Possibilities* - Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy, 12 March, 2026
- 2025 *Campo Oikonomico: Tourism* – Agape Centro Ecumenico, Prali, Italy, 8 -23 August 2025.
- 2025 *Reimagining Migration Economics through a Pluralist Lens* – EAEPE–YSI Summer School, Third University of Rome, 31 June–2 July 2025.
- 2025 *Dimensions of (Neo-) Extractivism: Space, Resilience, and Narratives of the Ecological Crisis* – YSI Workshop, University of Mar del Plata, Argentina, 5 March 2025.
- 2024 *Industrial Development, Cooperatives, and the Ecological Transition: Basque Country and Beyond* – YSI Workshop at the EAEPE Conference, Bilbao, Spain, 4–6 September 2024.
- 2023–2024 *Interdisciplinary Young Scholar Meetings* – Recurring PhD seminar series organised at the University of Naples Parthenope (DI.S.A.E.), Academic Year 2023–2024.

Skills

- Technical **Advanced:** Python; R (econometrics, spatial analysis, data visualisation); Stata; LaTeX; NetLogo; QGIS; MS Office.
Experienced: Google Earth Engine; C++; EViews.
- Languages German (native), English (excellent), Italian (basic).