

Curriculum Vitæ | Alejandro Ecker

CONTACT INFORMATION

Institute of Political Science & HClAS
Heidelberg University
Bergheimer Straße 58a, D-69115 Heidelberg

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✉ alejandro.ecker@uni-heidelberg.de

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Married, two children born in 2019 and 2021
German and Argentine citizenship
Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina

CURRENT POSITION

04/2021–today *Heidelberg University, Germany*
Junior professor (non-tenure track)
Politics and Communication

07/2024 **Successful interim evaluation of junior professorship**

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

11/2021–05/2022 **Parental leave**
Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, Germany

09/2016–03/2021 **Post-doctoral research fellow**
European Political Systems and their Integration

08/2020–01/2021 *University of Mannheim, Germany*
Acting professor (W3)
Comparative Government

01/2020–07/2020 **Parental leave**
University of Innsbruck, Austria

01/2021–07/2023 **External lecturer** at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences

12/2019 *University of Vienna, Austria*
Guest professor at the Department of Government

10/2010–08/2016 **Pre-doctoral researcher** at the Department of Government

03/2013–09/2015 **External lecturer** at the Department of Methods in the Social Sciences

02/2008–07/2010 *University of Mannheim, Germany*
Research assistant at the Chair of Comparative Politics

EDUCATION

	<i>University of Vienna, Austria</i>
10/2011–06/2016	Doctorate in Philosophy (Dr. phil., 22.06.2016) Thesis: The Party Foundations of Coalition Politics Supervisor: Wolfgang C. Müller Dissertation committee: Petra Schleiter and Indridi H. Indridason Grade: Excellent (1.0); with distinction
	<i>Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA</i>
08/2008–05/2009	Visiting Graduate Student at the Political Science Department
	<i>University of Mannheim, Germany</i>
08/2008–07/2010	Master of Arts in Political Science Thesis: Public Opinion Shocks and Cabinet Termination Grade: Excellent (1.0); with distinction
10/2005–06/2008	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics Thesis: Voting Behavior in Referenda on European Integration Grade: Excellent (1.4)

PUBLICATIONS

forthcoming	Ecker, Alejandro. “Coalition Bargaining Duration”, in: Marc Debus and Thomas Bräuninger (eds.), <i>Handbook of Coalition Politics</i> . Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
2025	Ecker, Alejandro, Thomas M. Meyer, and Carolina Plescia. “Do voters prefer logrolling to compromise in parliamentary democracies? ” <i>Electoral Studies</i> , 93. (link)
	Breznau, Nate, et al. “The reliability of replications: a study in computational reproductions.” <i>Royal Society Open Science</i> , 12 (3). (link)
2024	Däubler, Thomas, Marc Debus, and Alejandro Ecker. “Party Campaign Statements and Portfolio Allocation in Coalition Governments.” <i>West European Politics</i> , 47(1): 216–227. (link)
	Ecker, Alejandro and Martin Gross. “Equitability or proportionality? Local-level portfolio allocation in Germany.” <i>West European Politics</i> . (link)
	Ecker, Alejandro, Thomas M. Meyer and Wolfgang C. Müller. “The Architecture of Coalition Governance”, in: Torbjörn Bergman, Patrick Dumont, Bernard Grofman and Tom Louwerse (eds.), <i>New Developments in Coalition Cabinet Research</i> . New York: Springer, pp. 171–199. (link)
	Ecker, Alejandro, Friederike Nüssel and Jale Tosun. “Pope Francis, the Roman Catholic Church and citizen attitudes towards climate change.” <i>npj Climate Action</i> , 3(25). (link)

Imre, Michael and Alejandro Ecker. “Intra-party determinants of the allocation of legislative speeches.” *The Journal of Legislative Studies*. (link)

2023

Bauer, Paul C., et al. “Who tweets, and how freely? Evidence from an elite survey among German politicians.” *Research & Politics* 10(1). (link)

Imre, Michael, Alejandro Ecker, Thomas M. Meyer and Wolfgang C. Müller. “Coalition Mood in European Parliamentary Democracies.” *British Journal of Political Science*, 53(1): 104–21. (link)

2022

Breznau, Nate, et al. “Observing Many Researchers Using the Same Data and Hypothesis Reveals a Hidden Universe of Uncertainty.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(44). (link)

Ecker, Alejandro, Marcelo Jenny, Wolfgang C. Müller and Katrin Praprotnik. “How and Why Party Position Estimates from Manifestos, Expert, and Party Elite Surveys Diverge. A Comparative Analysis of the Left–right and the European Integration Dimensions.” *Party Politics*, 28(3): 528–40. (link)

Plescia, Carolina, Alejandro Ecker and Thomas M. Meyer. “Do Party Supporters Accept Policy Compromises in Coalition Governments?” *European Journal of Political Research*, 61(1): 214–29. (link)

2021

Debus, Marc, Holger Döring, and Alejandro Ecker. “Germany: From Stable Coalition Camps to New Complexity”, in: Torbjörn Bergman, Hanna Bäck and Johan Hellström (eds.), *Coalition Governance in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 247–83. (link)

Ecker, Alejandro and Martín Soto Payva. “Argentina: Debates and Consensus in a Post-bipartisan Congress”, in: Hanna Bäck, Marc Debus, and Jorge M. Fernandes (eds.), *The Politics of Legislative Debates*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 110–29. (link)

2020

Baumann, Markus, Alejandro Ecker and Martin Gross. “Party Competition and Dual Accountability in Multi-level Systems.” *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 30(3): 266–74. (link)

Ecker, Alejandro, Laurenz Ennser-Jedenastik and Martin Haselmayer. “Gender Bias in Asylum Adjudications. Evidence for Leniency toward Token Women.” *Sex Roles*, 82: 117–26. (link)

Ecker, Alejandro and Thomas M. Meyer. “Coalition Bargaining Duration in Multiparty Democracies.” *British Journal of Political Science*, 50(1): 261–80. (link)

2019 Backlund, Anders, Alejandro Ecker and Thomas M. Meyer. “The Economic and Political Context of Coalition Politics in Central Eastern Europe”, in: Torbjörn Bergman, Gabriella Ilonszki and Wolfgang C. Müller (eds.), *Coalition Governance in Central Eastern Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 60–85. (link)

Ecker, Alejandro and Thomas M. Meyer. “Fairness and Qualitative Portfolio Allocation in Multiparty Governments.” *Public Choice*, 181: 309–33. (link)

2017 Ecker, Alejandro. “Estimating Party Policy Positions from Social Network Data. Cross-Validating Position Estimates of Political Parties and Individual Legislators.” *Social Science Computer Review*, 35(1): 53–67. (link)

2016 Ecker, Alejandro, Konstantin Glinitzer and Thomas M. Meyer. “Corruption Performance Voting and the Electoral Context.” *European Political Science Review*, 8(3): 333–54. (link)

Ecker, Alejandro, Nicolas Merz, Jirka Lewandowski and Sven Regel. Manifestata. A stata package to access the Manifesto Project’s API.
<https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/manifestata>.

2015 Ecker, Alejandro and Thomas M. Meyer. “The Duration of Government Formation Processes in Europe.” *Research & Politics*, 2(4). (link)

Ecker, Alejandro, Thomas M. Meyer and Wolfgang C. Müller. “The Distribution of Individual Cabinet Positions in Coalition Governments: A Sequential Approach.” *European Journal of Political Research*, 54(4): 802–18. (link)

2013 Bergman, Torbjörn, Alejandro Ecker and Wolfgang C. Müller. “How Parties Govern: Political Parties and the Internal Organization of Government”, in: Wolfgang C. Müller and Hanne Marthe Narud (eds.), *Party Governance and Party Democracy*. New York: Springer, pp. 33–50. (link)

2012 Müller, Wolfgang C., Marcelo Jenny and Alejandro Ecker. “The Elites-Masses Gap in European Integration”, in: Heinrich Best, Gyorgy Lengyel, and Luca Verzichelli (eds.), *The Europe of Elites: A Study into the Europeaness of Europe’s Political and Economic Elites*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 167–91. (link)

02/2024–02/2026 Justice in Transitions to Sustainability
Role: Principal investigator (with Rosa Lehmann and Pablo Porte-Cheé)
Funding agency: Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE) in the framework of the Excellence Strategy at Heidelberg University
Project number: N.A.
Funding volume: 308,983 €

07/2022–08/2022 Polarisation and Inequalities in European and Latin American (Post-) Pandemic Societies
Role: Principal investigator (with Francisco Moreno-Fernández)
Funding agency: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Project number: 57611356
Funding volume: 28,000 €

11/2020–11/2022 Everyday and Media-Mediated Racism in the Public Sphere
Role: Principal investigator (with i.a. Chung-Hong Chan, Philipp Müller and Hartmut Wessler)
Funding agency: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)
Project number: Within the DeZIM research framework
Funding volume: 135,284 €

06/2019–06/2023 Intra-Party Politics and European Multiparty Governments
Role: Principal investigator
Funding agency: German Research Foundation (DFG)
Project number: 418728321
Funding volume: 243,376 €

2/2013–01/2018 Coalition Governance in Central Eastern Europe
Principal investigator: Wolfgang C. Müller
Role: Co-applicant and pre-doctoral researcher
Funding agency: Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
Project number: P 25490
Funding volume: 340,641 €

	<i>Supervision of Scientific Theses</i>
2018–today	3 PhD Theses (Michael Imre, Karla Alvarado Romero, and Luis Pesce) 10 MA Theses 30 BA Theses
	<i>Heidelberg University, Germany</i>
Summer 2025	Justice, Fairness and (In-) Equality (graduate level) Quantitative Data Analysis (undergraduate level)
	Bundestagswahlen 2025. Wahlverhalten, Parteienwettbewerb und Regierungsbildung (undergraduate level)
Winter 2024	Latin American Politics (graduate level) Machine Learning for the Social Sciences (graduate level)
Summer 2024	Machine Learning for the Social Sciences (graduate level) Gender and Politics (undergraduate level)
Winter 2023	Latin American Politics (graduate level) Multiparty Governments in Comparative Perspective (undergraduate level)
Summer 2023	Open Science and Replication (graduate level) Voting Behavior and Party Competition in Latin America (graduate level)
Winter 2022	Latin American Politics (graduate level) Quantitative Data Analysis (graduate level)
Summer 2022	Politics, Gender and Communication (graduate level) Voting Behavior and Party Competition (undergraduate level)
Winter 2021	Development and Inequalities in Latin America (graduate level)
Summer 2021	Introduction to Latin American Politics (undergraduate level) Politics and Digital Communication (graduate level)
	<i>University of Chile, Santiago, Chile</i>
Summer 2024	Democracy, Societies, and Communication (graduate level)
Winter 2023	Democracy, Societies, and Communication (graduate level)

	<i>University of Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Summer 2023	Quantitative Methods using R (undergraduate level)
Summer 2022	Quantitative Methods using R (undergraduate level)
Summer 2021	Quantitative Methods and Voting Behaviour (undergraduate level)
	<i>University of Mannheim, Germany</i>
Fall 2020	Introduction to the German Political System (undergraduate level)
	Comparative Politics of Central Eastern Europe (undergraduate level)
	Research Colloquium (undergraduate level)
	Academic Research and Writing (undergraduate level)
Fall 2019	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective (undergraduate level)
Spring 2019	Latin American Politics (undergraduate level)
Fall 2018	Colloquium - Supervision of Bachelor Theses (undergraduate level)
Spring 2018	Political Actors and Institutions in European Democracies (undergraduate level)
	Party Competition and Voting Behavior (undergraduate level)
Spring 2017	Parties and Coalitions in European Parliamentary Democracies (undergraduate level)
	<i>University of Vienna, Austria</i>
Winter 2019	Gender and Politics (graduate level)
Summer 2015	Methods and Research Design in Comparative Politics (with Thomas M. Meyer; graduate level)
Winter 2014	Quantitative Methods of Empirical Social Research (undergraduate level)
Summer 2014	Methods and Research Design in Comparative Politics (with Thomas M. Meyer; graduate level)
Winter 2013	Quantitative Methods of Empirical Social Research (undergraduate level)
Summer 2013	Methods and Research Design in Comparative Politics (with Thomas M. Meyer; graduate level)

Winter 2012 **Quantitative Methods of Empirical Social Research**
(undergraduate level)

ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques, Vienna, Austria

02/2014 **Teaching assistant for Panel Data Analysis**

02/2013 **Teaching assistant for Panel Data Analysis**

02/2012 **Teaching assistant for Panel Data Analysis**

06/2025 EPSA Economic voting and long-term political socialization in Latin America (Madrid, **Spain**).

04/2025 Communication Dynamics Towards Social Sustainability in Latin America and Europe (Santiago, **Chile**).

03/2025 DVPW Affective Polarization, Pre-electoral coalition formation and consideration set models of electoral behavior (Saarbrücken, **Germany**).

10/2024 Subnational elections as a form of evaluation. Invited talk at the University of Chile (**Chile**).

07/2024 EPSA Pre-electoral coalition formation and consideration set models of electoral behavior (Cologne, **Germany**).

06/2024 Economic voting and long-term political socialization in Latin America. Annual meeting of DVPW AK Wahlen (Siegen, **Germany**).

11/2023 Affective polarization and political communication. Invited talk at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (**Chile**).

09/2023 APSA Who should govern? Perceived legitimacy of governments in multiparty systems (Los Angeles, **California, USA**).

04/2023 MPSA Asset or liability? Intra-party heterogeneity, government formation, and the allocation of ministerial portfolios (Chicago, **Illinois, USA**).

04/2023 MPSA Pre-electoral coalition formation and consideration set models of electoral behavior (Chicago, **Illinois, USA**).

07/2022 Gobiernos multipartidistas en perspectiva comparada. Invited (virtual) talk at the Universidad Católica de Santa Fé (**Argentina**).

05/2022 LASA Trust in the church and climate change denial. Insights from Latin America.

10/2021 Voter Preferences on Logrolling and Compromise during Government Formation. Workshop on Coalition Politics and Portfolio Design, University of Bamberg (**Germany**).

09/2021 DVPW Voter Preferences on Logrolling and Compromise during Government Formation.

06/2021 EPSA Ready for the floor? Intra-party Determinants of the Allocation of Legislative Speeches.

06/2020 Promesas y riesgos de sistemas parlamentarios y presidenciales. Invited (virtual) talk at the Universidad Católica de Santa Fé (**Argentina**).

12/2019 Assembly Dissolution Powers, Coalition Bargaining and Government Policy. Seminar series of the Department of Government, University of Vienna (**Austria**).

10/2019 The Politics of Legislative Debate in Argentina. Workshop on the Politics of Legislative Debate, University of Mannheim (**Germany**).

07/2019 Unraveling Parties' Frequent Call for Welfare State Expansion. Workshop on Spatial Modeling, University of Mannheim (**Germany**).

02/2019 DLT Qualitative Portfolio Allocation in European Multiparty Governments (Zurich, **Switzerland**).

11/2018 Policy Pay-offs in European Multiparty Governments. Invited talk at the University of Barcelona (**Spain**).

09/2018 DVPW Portfolio Allocation at the Local Level in Germany (Frankfurt, **Germany**).

08/2018 APSA Qualitative Portfolio Allocation in European Multiparty Governments (Boston, **Massachusetts, USA**).

06/2018 EPSA The Effect of Electoral Coordination on Voting Behavior (Vienna, **Austria**).

06/2018 Portfolio Allocation in Multiparty Governments. Invited talk at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (**Germany**).

02/2018 Unraveling Parties' Frequent Call for Welfare State Expansion. Manifesto Corpus Conference, WZB Berlin (**Germany**).

09/2017 ECPR Gender Bias in the Austrian Asylum Court (Oslo, **Norway**).

06/2017 EPSA Fairness and Portfolio Allocation in Multiparty Governments (Milan, **Italy**).

04/2017 MPSA Coalition Governance and Cabinet Duration (Chicago, **Illinois, USA**).

01/2017 The Architecture of Coalition Governance. Regional Research and Networking Conference, Heidelberg University (**Germany**).

12/2016 Conflict Resolution, Coalition Agreements and Portfolio Allocation. Workshop on Coalition Governments, University of Vienna (**Austria**).

09/2016 ECPR The Architecture of Coalition Governance (Prague, **Czech Republic**).

06/2016 EPSA Coalition Bargaining Duration in Multiparty Democracies (Brussels, **Belgium**).

04/2016 Coalition Bargaining Duration in Multiparty Democracies. Workshop on New Developments in Cabinet Coalition Research (Rome, **Italy**).

03/2016 Comparative Data on Portfolio Design. Workshop on the Politics of Portfolio Design, University of Vienna (**Austria**).

10/2015 Determinants of Intra-party Preference Heterogeneity. Gothenburg Workshop on Intra-Party Politics (**Sweden**).

09/2015 APSA Coalition Bargaining Duration in Multiparty Democracies (San Francisco, **California, USA**).

06/2015 EPSA Asymmetric Opinion Poll Shocks and Cabinet Termination (Vienna, **Austria**).

CONFERENCES
(CONTINUED)

06/2015 EPSA	Coalition Bargaining Duration in Central and Eastern Europe (Vienna, Austria).
04/2015 MPSA	Coalition Bargaining Duration in Central and Eastern Europe (Chicago, Illinois, USA).
09/2013 ECPR	Pre-electoral Coalition Formation in Central Eastern Europe (Bordeaux, France).
09/2013 ECPR	The Distribution of Ministries in Coalition Governments (Bordeaux, France).
04/2011 ECPR	Dynamic Representation: Does the Electoral Cycle Matter? Workshop on Issue Congruence and Policy Responsiveness in European Governance, University of St. Gallen (Switzerland).
06/2010	User-written Stata Program: agrm. Computing Agreement on Ordered Rating Scales. German Stata Users Group meeting, Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (Germany).

COMMITTEES AND
REPRESENTATION

	<i>Heidelberg University, Germany</i>
2024–today	Research Council Regulation processes at the level of individuals and societies
2022–today	Study Program Council Master Program Communication and Society
2022–2023	Co-organization HCIAS Research Colloquium
2022	Selection Committee “Society, Culture and Communication” (W3)
2021–today	Board of Directors Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies
2021–today	Faculty Council Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
2021–today	Institutional Review Board Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
2021–today	Admission and Audit Committees Master Program Communication and Society
	<i>Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, Germany</i>
2019–2021	Academic Employees Representative Committee
2018–2021	Co-organization Mittelbaukolloquium
2019–2020	Library Committee
2018–2019	Organization Research Department B Colloquium

PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES

2023 Co-organizer of a symposium on Communication in Polarized Societies at Heidelberg University (i.a. with Francisco Moreno-Fernández)

2023 Co-organizer of a workshop on Sustainability, Transitions, and Discourse at the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (with Rosa Lehmann)

2023 Co-organizer of a workshop on Voter Preferences and Attitudes toward Post-election Outcomes at the University of Vienna (with Carolina Plescia and Thomas M. Meyer)

2022 Organizer of a DAAD international Summer School on Polarisation and Inequalities in Europe and Latin America

2020 Guest editor of a special issue on “Party Competition and Dual Accountability in Multi-level Systems” in the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* (with Markus Baumann and Martin Gross)

2019 Organizer of a panel session on Bargaining and Policy-making in Multiparty Governments at the APSA Annual Meeting

2019 Co-organizer of a panel session on Multiparty governments – Formation and Delegation at the Dreiländertagung (with Thomas M. Meyer)

2017 Co-organizer of a workshop on Party Competition in European Multi-Level Systems at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (with Markus Baumann and Martin Gross)

GRANTS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 **Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE):** Grant for organizing a scientific workshop (10,000 €; with Rosa Lehmann)

2022 **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD):** Grant for attending a scientific conference (2,130 €)

2020 **University of Mannheim:** Family Assistance in Research (3,150 €)

2018 **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD):** Grant for attending a scientific conference (2,050 €)

2017 **Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES):** Grant for organizing a scientific conference (10,000 €; with Markus Baumann and Martin Gross)

2008 **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD):** Scholarship as a Visiting Graduate Student (14,100 €)

2025	Radio France Internationale: “El conservador y futuro canciller Merz confirmó la alianza con el partido socialdemócrata para formar gobierno” covering research on coalition bargaining in Germany.
2023	Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung: “Ein Sieg der Rechtslibertären würde den Fortschritt gefährden” covering research on presidential elections in Argentina.
2022	Dagbladet Information: “Det er ikke kun Mette Frederiksen” covering research on government formation duration.
2022	Mandag Morgen: “Kampen om magten over midten tager tid” covering research on government formation duration.
2022	RUPERTO CAROLA: “Herzstück. Kompromisse in der Politik” covering research on coalition compromise.
2022	ORF: “Reden ist Silber, Klatschen ist Gold” covering research on coalition mood in European parliamentary democracies.
2021	EUROPP: “Do party supporters accept policy compromises in coalition governments?” covering research on coalition compromise.
2021	WPK: “Digital communication and political elites” covering research on social media in political communication.
2019	ORF, El País (i.a.): “Sondierung kann lange dauern” covering research on coalition bargaining duration.
2019	dpa, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Der Standard, Süddeutsche Zeitung, ZDF (i.a.): “Richterinnen gewähren häufiger Asyl” covering research on asylum adjudications in Austria.
2016	Democratic Audit UK: “Why Voters Do not (always) Punish Government Parties for Corruption” covering research on corruption performance voting.

WORK IN PROGRESS

In preparation (ERC or DFG)	Project proposal on artificial intelligence and democratic governments.
In preparation (DFG IRTG)	Project proposal for International Research Training Group on social sustainability in comparative perspective. (Co-PI in cooperation with Pontifical Catholic University of Chile)
Ready to submit (DFG)	Project proposal for Junior Research Group on bargaining deadlock and political system support.
Under review (APSR)	Who should govern? Perceived legitimacy of governments in multiparty systems. (with Carolina Plescia and Thomas M. Meyer)

REFEREE FOR
JOURNALS AND
FUNDING AGENCIES

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Brazilian Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Climate Action, Comparative European Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, European Political Science Review, European Sociological Review, Governance, Government and Opposition, Journal of Politics, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Parliamentary Affairs, Party Politics, Political Behavior, Political Research Quarterly, Politics and Governance, Public Choice, Social Science Computer Review, Swiss National Science Foundation, West European Politics

COMPUTING SKILLS

Programming knowledge in R, Stata, Mata, Python, and JS/Qualtrics
Good knowledge of IBM SPSS Statistics, and L^AT_EX
Collaborative tools (Miro, Slack, Trello)
Microsoft 365 (Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, Word)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German and Spanish (native)
English (full professional proficiency)
Latinum

REFEREES

Prof. Wolfgang C. Müller
University of Vienna
Department of Government
Rooseveltplatz 3/1
A-1090 Vienna
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Prof. Jale Tosun
Heidelberg University
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Bergheimer Str. 58
D-69115 Germany
✉ jale.tosun@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de

Prof. Francisco Moreno-Fernández
Heidelberg University
HCIAS
Brunnengasse 1
D-69117 Germany
✉ francisco.moreno@uni-heidelberg.de