

SEBASTIAN VOLLMER

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Göttingen
Center for Modern Indian Studies
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EDUCATION

Dr. rer. pol. (Ph.D. equivalent), Economics, University of Göttingen, 2009
Dipl. Math. (B.Sc. + M.Sc. equivalent), Mathematics, University of Göttingen, 2006
B.A., Economics, University of Göttingen, 2005

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Göttingen, Department of Economics & Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Professor of Development Economics and Global Health (since 2025), Professor of Development Economics (2016 – 2025), Assistant Professor of Development Economics (2012 – 2016)
Université Clermont Auvergne, École d'Économie, Visiting Professor (part-time), since 2017
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Department of Global Health and Population, Adjunct Professor of Global Health (2016 – 2018), Adjunct Assistant Professor of Global Health (2012 – 2016), Lecturer (2011 – 2012)
Dartmouth College, Department of Economics, Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Winter 2011/ 2012
Harvard University, Center for Population and Development Studies, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2009 – 2011

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

Science Award Lower Saxony, 2025
Science Award of the German Society of Health Economics, 2018
KfW Development Bank Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research, 2015
German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes), 2000 – 2005

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory Board, **German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEVAL)**, since 2023
Program Director, **B.A. Sustainable Development Studies**, University of Göttingen, since 2022
Liaison Professor, **Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes**, since 2020
Program Director, **M.Sc. Development Economics**, University of Göttingen, since 2019
Director, **Centre for Modern Indian Studies**, University of Göttingen, 2017 – 2024
Consultant, **The World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, FAO** and other international organizations, since 2008

SELECTED GRANTS

“Research Training Group 2654/2: Sustainable Food Systems”, Principal Investigator (Speaker: Meike Wollni), **German Research Foundation (DFG)**, 2026 – 2030
“The Impact of Obesity, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes on Labor Market Participation and Productivity”, Principal Investigator, **German Research Foundation (DFG)**, 2023 – 2026
“Research Training Group 2654/1: Sustainable Food Systems”, Principal Investigator (Speaker: Matin Qaim), **German Research Foundation (DFG)**, 2021 – 2026
“Research Unit 2432/2: Social-Ecological Systems in the Indian Rural-Urban Interface: Functions, Scales, and Dynamics of Transition”, Principal Investigator (Speaker: Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel and Andreas Bürkert), **German Research Foundation (DFG)**, 2019 – 2023
“Reducing poverty risk in developing countries”, Principal Investigator (Speaker: Stephan Klasen), **Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony**, 2015 – 2019

“Research Training Group 1723: Globalization and Development”, Principal Investigator (Speaker: Stephan Klasen and Andreas Wagener), **German Research Foundation (DFG)**, 2015 – 2021

“Structure, Trends and Determinants of Welfare Distributions”, Principal Investigator, **German Research Foundation (DFG)**, 2010 – 2013

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Weber A-C, Bogler, L, Kumar A, Vollmer S (forthcoming) [Iron-fortified drinking water in Anganwadi Centres in rural India: a randomized controlled trial](#). **Review of Development Economics**, DOI: 10.1111/rode.70122

Ahmad A, Naeher D, Vollmer S (forthcoming) [The Political Economy of Patent Buyouts](#). **RAND Journal of Economics**, DOI: 10.1111/1756-2171.70017

Kaplan L, Marx Delaney M, Roddewig P, Singh S, Molina R, Diba F, Tuller D, Bobanski L, Hashmi A, Marthoenis M, Richert K, Ichsan I, Singh V, Muhsin M, Kumar V, Sofyan H, Vollmer S*, Semrau K* (2026) [The World Health Organization Safe Childbirth Checklist on Essential Birth Practices and Perinatal Mortality: A Meta-Analysis](#). **JAMA Network Open**, 9(2): e2558269 (* joint last authors)

Ebert C, Klasen S, Vollmer S (2025) [Counting missing women: a reconciliation of flow and stock measures](#). **Journal of Population Economics**, 38: 82

Sulola MA, Sibai AM, Damasceno A, Issanov A, Sarria-Santamera A, Orazumbekova B, Norov B, Bicaba B, Houehanou C, Guwatudde D, Kagaruki GB, Gathecha G, Jorgensen JA, Mwangi KJ, Agoudavi K, Sturua L, Mayige MT, Gurung M, Hwalla N, Lunet N, Mwalim O, McClure RW, Quesnel-Crooks S, Bahendeka S, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Davies J, Flood D, Geldsetzer P, Jaacks L, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Vollmer S*, Marcus M* (2025) [Use of traditional medicine for hypertension, diabetes, and hypercholesterolaemia measured in 71 surveys](#). **Bulletin of the World Health Organization**, 103: 662–674 (* joint last authors)

Stehl J, Vonderschmidt A, Vollmer S, Alexander P, Jaacks L (2025) [Gap between national food production and food-based dietary guidance highlights lack of national self-sufficiency](#). **Nature Food**, 6: 571–576

Stehl J, Depenbusch L, Vollmer S (2025) [Global poverty and the cost of a healthy diet](#). **Food Policy**, 132: 102849

Mittal N, Parigi M, Vollmer S (2025) [Social cohesion among Syrian and Turkish children, adolescents, and young adults in Turkey](#). **International Migration**, 63: e13346

Marcus M, Reuter A, Rogge L, Vollmer S (2024) [The Effect of SMS Reminders on Health Screening Uptake: A Randomized Experiment in Indonesia](#). **Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization**, 227: 106715

Weber A-C, Bogler L, Vollmer S (2024) [Formal vs. informal mathematics: Assessing numeracy with school and market items in a large sample of school-aged children in North-West Nigeria](#). **Economics of Education Review**, 102: 102564

Geldsetzer P, Tisdale R, Stehr L, Michalik F, Lemp J, Aryal K, Damasceno A, Houehanou C, Jorgensen J, Lunet N, Mayige M, Moghaddam S, Mwangi K, Bommer C, Marcus M, Theilmann M, Ebert C, Atun R, Davies J, Flood D, Manne-Goehler J, Seiglie J, Bärnighausen T, Vollmer S (2024) [The prevalence of cardiovascular disease risk factors among adults living in extreme poverty](#). **Nature Human Behaviour**, 8: 903–916

Bogler L, Bommer C, Ebert C, Kumar A, Subramanian SV, Subramanyam M, Vollmer S (2024) [Effects of a large-scale Participatory Learning and Action Programme in Women’s Groups on Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: a Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial in Bihar, India](#). **Journal of Development Effectiveness**, 16(2): 246–263

Ebert C, Heesemann E, Vollmer S (2024) [Two Scalable Interventions to Promote Health and Mental Development in Early Childhood: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Rural India](#). **Journal of Human Capital**, 18(1): 140–193

Lemp J, Bommer C, Xie M, Michaelik F, Jani A, Davies J, Bärnighausen T, Vollmer S, Geldsetzer P (2023) [Quasi-experimental evaluation of a nationwide diabetes prevention programme](#). **Nature**, 624: 138–144

Grafenstein L, Kumar A, Kumar S, Vollmer S (2023) [Medium-run impacts of iron-fortified school lunch on anemia, cognition, and learning outcomes in India](#). **Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics**, 85(6): 1262–1294

Kuhnt J, Hashmi A, Vollmer S (2023) [The effect of the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist on essential delivery practices and birth outcomes: Evidence from a pair-wise matched randomized controlled trial in Pakistan](#). **SSM - Population Health**, 24: 101495

Noubactep C, Kenmogne-Tchidjo J, Vollmer S (2023) [Iron-fortified water: a new approach for reducing iron deficiency anemia in resource-constrained settings](#). **Scientific Reports**, 13: 13565

- Ochmann S, von Polenz I, Marcus ME, Theilmann M, Flood D, Agoudavi K, Aryal KK, Bahendeka S, Bicaba B, Bovet P, Caldeira Brant LC, Carvalho Malta D, Damasceno A, Farzadfar F, Gathecha G, Ghanbari A, Gurung M, Guwatudde D, Houehanou C, Houinato D, Hwalla N, Jorgensen JA, Karki KB, Lunet N, Martins J, Mayige M, Moghaddam S, Mwalim O, Mwangi KJ, Norov B, Quesnel-Crooks S, Rezaei N, Sibai AM, Sturua L, Tsabedze L, Wong-McClure R, Davies J, Geldsetzer P, Bärnighausen T, Atun R, Manne-Goehler J, Vollmer S (2023) [Diagnostic testing for hypertension, diabetes, and hypercholesterolemia in low- and middle-income countries: a cross-sectional study of 994,185 individuals from 57 nationally representative surveys](#). **The Lancet Global Health**, 11(9): e1363–e1371
- Haggenmüller V, Bogler L, Weber A-C, Kumar A, Bärnighausen T, Danquah I, Vollmer S (2023) [Smartphone-based point-of-care anemia screening in rural Bihar, India](#). **Communications Medicine**, 3: 38
- Ebert C, Vollmer S (2022) [Girls unwanted: The role of parents' child-specific sex preference for children's early mental development](#). **Journal of Health Economics**, 82: 102590
- Steinert J, Vasumati Satish R, Stips F, Vollmer S (2022) [Commitment or Concealment? Impacts and Use of a Portable Saving Device: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Urban India](#). **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**, 193: 367–398
- Ochmann S, Owolabi KE, Olatunji-David F, Okunlola N, Vollmer S (2022) [The impact of grants in combination with school-based management trainings on primary education: A cluster-randomized trial in Northern Nigeria](#). **Journal of Development Effectiveness**, 14(3): 189–208
- Reuter A, Rogge L, Monahan M, Kachapila M, Morton DG, Davies J, Vollmer S on behalf of the NIHR Global Surgery Collaboration (2022) [The global economic burden of unmet surgical need for appendicitis](#). **British Journal of Surgery**, 109(10): 995–1003
- Theilmann M, Lemp J, Winkler V, Manne-Goehler J, Marcus M, Probst P, Lopez-Arboleda W, Ebert C, Bommer C, Mathur M, Andall-Brereton G, Bahendeka S, Bovet P, Farzadfar F, Ghasemi E, Mayige M, Moghaddam S, Mwangi K, Naderimagham S, Sturua L, Atun R, Davies J, Bärnighausen T, Vollmer S*, Geldsetzer P* (2022) [Patterns of tobacco use in low- and middle-income countries by tobacco product and sociodemographic characteristics: a study of nationally representative survey data from 82 countries](#). **The BMJ**, 378: e067582 (* joint last authors)
- Xu Y, Geldsetzer P, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Marcus M, Zhumadilov Z, Quesnel-Crooks S, Mwalim O, Saeedi Moghaddam S, Koolaji S, Karki K, Farzadfar F, Ebrahimi N, Damasceno A, Aryal K, Agoudavi K, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Davies J, Jaacks L, Vollmer S*, Probst C* (2022) [The Socio-economic Gradient of Alcohol Use: An Analysis of Nationally Representative Survey Data from 55 Low- and Middle-income Countries](#). **The Lancet Global Health**, 10(9): e1268–e1280 (* joint last authors)
- Marcus M, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Farzadfar F, Moghaddam S, Keykhaei M, Hajebi A, Tschida S, Lemp J, Aryal K, Dunn M, Houehanou C, Silver B, Rohloff P, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Geldsetzer P, Ramirez-Zea M, Chopra V, Heisler M, Davies J, Huffman M, Vollmer S*, Flood D* (2022) [Use of Statins for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in 41 Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Cross-Sectional Study of Nationally Representative, Individual-Level Data](#). **The Lancet Global Health**, 10(3): e369–e379 (* joint last authors)
- Heldring L, Robinson J, Vollmer S (2021) [The Long-Run Impact of the Dissolution of the English Monasteries](#). **Quarterly Journal of Economics**, 136(4): 2093–2145
- Krämer M, Kumar S, Vollmer S (2021) [Anemia, diet, and cognitive development: Impact of health information on diet quality and child nutrition in rural India](#). **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**, 190: 495–523
- Krämer M, Kumar S, Vollmer S (2021) [Improving Child Health and Cognition: Evidence from a School-Based Nutrition Intervention in India](#). **Review of Economics and Statistics**, 103(5): 818–834
- Kaplan L, Ichsan, Diba F, Marthoenis, Muhsin, Samadi, Richert K, Susanti S, Sofyan H, Vollmer S (2021) [Impact of the World Health Organization Safe Childbirth Checklist on Quality of Care and Birth Outcomes in Aceh, Indonesia: A Cluster-Randomized Clinical Trial](#). **JAMA Network Open**, 4(12): e2137168
- Marcus ME, Ebert C, Geldsetzer P, Theilmann M, Bicaba BW, Andall-Brereton G, Bovet P, Farzadfar F, Gurung MS, Houehanou C, Malekpour M-R, Martins JS, Moghaddam SS, Mohammadi E, Norov B, Quesnel-Crooks S, Wong-McClure R, Davies JI, Hlatky MA, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Jaacks LM, Manne-Goehler J, Vollmer S (2021) [Unmet Need for Hypercholesterolemia Care in 35 Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Cross-sectional Study of Nationally-representative Surveys](#). **PLOS Medicine**, 18(10): e1003841
- Bommer C, Horn S, Vollmer S (2020) [The effect of routine probiotics supplementation on preterm newborn health: a regression discontinuity analysis](#). **American Journal of Clinical Nutrition**, 112(5): 1219–1227

- Ogbuoji O, Vollmer S, Jamison D, Bärnighausen T (2020) [Economic consequences of better health: insights from clinical data](#). **The BMJ**, 370: m2186
- Bommer C, Mittal N, Vollmer S (2020) [The Impact of Nutritional Interventions on Child Health and Cognitive Development](#). **Annual Review of Resource Economics**, 12: 345–366
- Geldsetzer P, Manne-Goehler J, Marcus M, Ebert C, Zhumadilov Z, Wesseh CS, Tsabedze L, Supiyev A, Sturua L, Silver BK, Sibai AM, Quesnel-Crooks S, Norov B, Mwangi JK, Mwalim O, McClure RW, Mayige MT, Martins JS, Lunet N, Labadarios D, Karki KB, Kagaruki GB, Jorgensen JMA, Hwalla NC, Houinato D, Houehanou C, Msaidié M, Guwatudde D, Gurung MS, Gathecha G, Dorobantu M, Damasceno A, Bovet P, Bicaba BW, Aryal KA, Andall-Brereton G, Agoudavi K, Stokes A, Davies JI, Bärnighausen T*, Atun R*, Vollmer S*, Jaacks LM* (2019) [The state of hypertension care in 44 low- and middle-income countries: a cross-sectional study of individual-level nationally representative data from 1.1 million adults](#). **The Lancet**, 394: 652-662 (* joint last authors)
- Manne-Goehler J, Geldsetzer P, Agoudavi K, Andall-Brereton G, Aryal KK, Bicaba BW, Bovet P, Brian G, Dorobantu M, Gathecha G, Gurung MS, Guwatudde D, Msaidie M, Houehanou C, Houinato D, Jorgensen JMA, Kagaruki GB, Karki KB, Labadarios D, Martins JS, Mayige MT, McClure RW, Mwalim O, Mwangi JK, Norov B, Quesnel-Crooks S, Silver BK, Sturua L, Tsabedze L, Wesseh CS, Stokes A, Marcus M, Ebert C, Davies JI*, Vollmer S*, Atun R*, Bärnighausen T*, Jaacks L* (2019) [Health system performance for people with diabetes in 28 low- and middle-income countries: A cross-sectional study of nationally representative surveys](#). **PLOS Medicine**, 16(3): e1002751 (* joint last authors)
- Minasyan A, Zenker J, Klasen S, Vollmer S (2019) [Educational Gender Gaps and Economic Growth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Regression Analysis](#). **World Development** 122: 199-217
- Steinert JI, Cluver LD, Meinck F, Doubt J, Vollmer S (2018) [Household Economic Strengthening through Financial and Psychosocial Programming: Evidence from a Field Experiment in South Africa](#). **Journal of Development Economics**, 134: 443-466
- Zenker J, Wagener A, Vollmer S (2018) [Better Knowledge Need Not Affect Behavior: A Randomized Evaluation of the Demand for Lottery Tickets in Rural Thailand](#). **World Bank Economic Review**, 32(3): 570–583
- Geldsetzer P, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Davies JI, Awasthi A, Danaei G, Gaziano TA, Vollmer S*, Jaacks LM*, Bärnighausen T*, Atun R* (2018) [Geographic and sociodemographic variation of cardiovascular disease risk in India: A cross-sectional study of 797,540 adults](#). **PLOS Medicine**, 15(6): e1002581 (* joint last authors)
- Geldsetzer P, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Davies JI, Awasthi A, Vollmer S*, Jaacks LM*, Bärnighausen T*, Atun R* (2018) [Diabetes and hypertension in India: A nationally representative study of 1.3 million adults](#). **JAMA Internal Medicine**, 178(3): 363-372 (* joint last authors)
- Bommer C, Sagalova V, Heesemann E, Manne-Goehler J, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Davies JI, Vollmer S (2018) [Global economic burden of diabetes in adults: projections from 2015-2030](#). **Diabetes Care**, 41(5): 963-970
- Bommer C, Heesemann E, Sagalova V, Manne-Goehler J, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Vollmer S (2017) [The Global Economic Burden of Diabetes in Adults aged 20 to 79: A Cost-of-Illness Study](#). **The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology**, 5(6): 423-430
- Kumar S, Molitor R, Vollmer S (2016) [Drought and Early Child Health in Rural India](#). **Population and Development Review**, 42(1): 53-68
- Strulik H, Vollmer S (2015) [The Fertility Transition around the World](#). **Journal of Population Economics**, 28(1): 31-44
- Vollmer S, Harttgen K, Subramanyam MA, Finlay J, Klasen S, Subramanian SV (2014) [Association between economic growth and early childhood undernutrition: evidence from 121 Demographic and Health Surveys from 36 low-income and middle-income countries](#). **The Lancet Global Health**, 2(4): e225-e234
- Fink G, McConnell M, Vollmer S (2014) [Testing for Heterogeneous Treatment Effects in Experimental Data: False Discovery Risks and Correction Procedures](#). **Journal of Development Effectiveness**, 6(1): 44-57
- Harttgen K, Vollmer S (2014) [A Reversal in the Relationship of Human Development with Fertility?](#) **Demography**, 51(1): 173-184
- Strulik H, Vollmer S (2013) [Long-Run Trends of Human Aging and Longevity](#). **Journal of Population Economics**, 26(4): 1303-1323
- Harttgen K, Klasen S, Vollmer S (2013) [An African Growth Miracle? Or: What do Asset Indices Tell us about Trends in Economic Performance?](#) **Review of Income and Wealth**, 59(S1): S37-S61

- Vollmer S, Holzmann H, Ketterer F, Klasen S, Canning D (2013) [The Emergence of Three Human Development Clubs](#). **PLOS ONE**, 8(3): e57624
- Vollmer S, Holzmann H, Schwaiger F (2013) [Peaks vs Components](#). **Review of Development Economics**, 17(2): 352-364
- Herzer D, Strulik H, Vollmer S (2012) [The Long-Run Determinants of Fertility: One Century of Demographic Change 1900-1999](#). **Journal of Economic Growth**, 17(4): 357-385
- Holzmann H, Vollmer S (2008) [A Likelihood Ratio Test for Bimodality in Two-Component Mixtures with Application to Regional Income Distribution in the EU](#). **AStA Advances in Statistical Analysis**, 92(1): 57-69