

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

## Michael Friedrich FÖRSTER



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Sex male | Date of birth 02/04/1958 | Nationality Austrian

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Since 2023 Guest lecturer on economic inequality and policy at Sciences Po Paris

Since 2022 Guest professor at the Herman Deleeck Center for Social Policy at University of Antwerp

2017 – 2022 Senior economist and policy analyst (grade A4) at the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Jobs and Income Division and, from 2020, the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE).

Head of Unit “Inequalities”, responsible for research on inequality in OECD countries and emerging economies; dissemination and communication; and management. Responsible for numerous major projects and OECD flagship publications, including “[A Broken Social Elevator? How to Promote Social Mobility](#)” (2018), “[Under Pressure: The Squeezed Middle Class](#)” (2019) and “[Does Inequality Matter? How people perceive economic disparities and social mobility](#)” (2021)

2009 – 2016 Senior economist and policy analyst (grade A4) at OECD Social Policy Division.

Head of Unit “Income Distribution and Poverty”, responsible for several major projects and flagship publications, including: study of the impact of the global recession and consolidation policies on inequality, the distributive effects of labour market changes and the impact of increasing inequality on growth, published as OECD (2015), “[In It Together – Why Less Inequality Benefits All](#)”; Study on the redistributive impact of publicly provided services (2010 – 2012); Study of the driving forces behind widening inequality in OECD countries, including the possible effects of globalisation, technological change and policy reforms, published as OECD (2011), “[Divided We Stand: Why Inequality keeps rising](#)”; development of analyses of trends in inequality and poverty in [key emerging economies](#) (2010 – 2015)

2005 – 2009 Economist and policy analyst (grade A3) at OECD Social Policy Division

Responsible for empirical and policy analysis and report drafting, including co-authoring OECD major report “Growing Unequal?” ([2008](#)); member of the team reviewing sickness and disability policies, co-authoring three reviews covering 12 OECD member countries ([2005 – 2008](#)); managing OECD tax/benefit modelling work, co-author of Benefits and Wages publication ([2007](#)).

2000 – 2004 Research Fellow at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy Research, Vienna

Head of Programme “Incomes, Poverty and Social Policy”

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2003 PhD in economics, Liège University, Belgium : "doctorat en sciences économiques, special mention: « la plus grande distinction »
- 1996 Post-graduate studies at Saarland University, Europa Institut, Germany, Department of Economics
- 1993 M.A. in economics and social sciences, Vienna University, Austria: "Magisterium", special mention: "Auszeichnung"

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)	German				
	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
Other language(s)	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
French	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user  
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

## PUBLICATIONS

For a selected list of publications, see <https://tarki.hu/eng/michael-forster>

## SELECTED MEMBERSHIPS

- Permanent member Observatoire des Inégalités, France ; Scientific board of the Research institute Economics of Inequality, Austria; Scientific advisory board of Tárki Social Research Institute, Hungary
- 2011 – 2022 Council member of ONPES (Observatoire national de la pauvreté et de l'exclusion sociale, France), from 2020 CNLE (Conseil National des Politiques de Lutte contre la Pauvreté et l'Exclusion), France
- Since 2015 Member of several scientific advisory boards, most recently (2024) to a report for the Belgian presidency of the EU, and to the report on a sustainable welfare state of the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1994 – 1997 Co-ordinator of the Luxembourg Employment Study (LES) at CEPS/INSTEAD (Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques).

**OTHER  
EXPERIENCES**

Regular presentations, key notes and acting as panelist at scientific as well as policy-oriented events and hearings, *inter alia* recently (past 8 years):

- OECD Working Parties, Committees and Councils
- EU, DG Employment Triple-A Talks, Summer Schools, Trends4EU hearings, DG ECFIN etc.
- National governments and stakeholders, e.g. French Assemblée Nationale, French Senate, Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Chilean Ministry for Social Welfare, Israel Ministry of Social Security, French Economic, Social and Environmental council, Bank of Lithuania, Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare, Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare, etc.
- NGOs and national stakeholders, e.g. Danish Economic Council of the Labour Movement, Swedish Congress of the Moderate Party, Austrian platform to combat poverty and social exclusion, Maison de l'Europe, trade union advisory committee, etc.
- Annual ESPANET conferences
- Journées de l'Économie, Lyon/France
- Sociology Congress of the Acores, Portugal
- Printemps de l'économie, Paris/France
- City University of New York (CUNY)
- University of the Basque Country
- Grenoble, UPEG (Université populaire Européenne)
- Vienna University of Economics
- Israel, Ruppin Academic Center
- Oxford, Nuffield College
- Tokyo, Keio University
- Gdansk University of Technology
- London School of Economics

**LEISURE**

Travel, music (jazz, world), sports (ski, table tennis), cooking, ampelography.