

EEA ANNUAL MEETING 27th - 31st August 2018



The Structure of our days

To give you an idea of how a conference may look like we are going to sum up our day. This year conference took place in the city of Cologne; a city new to both of us so far. Our AirBnB-flat was nicely located in walking distance within 30 minutes from the University. We usually started our day by having a small breakfast at home and discussing the selected lectures for the day. The conference offers plenty of occasions to inform you about the latest research so that you wisely should select what seems most appealing to you. Usually, your day starts at 9 am and ends at around half past 7 pm. The first two days we choose an intense schedule. Coffee breaks are included every now and then but we soon felt they were not sufficient to refresh our brain capacity fully :) After those two days experience on day three, we wisely chose to skip a lecture in between which helped us to stay mentally receptive. In general, our week was very intense so that we often enjoyed our early sleep after a long day. Nevertheless, our taylormade non-academic program after and before the

EEA sessions was an important contrasty part of our week.



Regarding foods, we didn't need much besides the EEA catering but still went getting some fruits and breakfast-material for the week. And of course a bottle of nice dry red wine to make our long conversations even more enjoyable. We also learned that wine goes well with Yoga exercises after a full conference day :) On our second day, we went to explore the city center and its common sights, such as the Dome and the

Hohenzollern Bridge with its uncountable number of love-padlocks. On Wednesday we joined Prof. Elisabeth Schulte and other Professors from Sydney, Southampton, and Berlin for dinner in the city. While eating Käsespätzle we had the chance to learn about their work, engage in discussions and Jana even found the topic for her Master Thesis that day. The last evening we had the chance to spend a beautiful evening with good company and food at the Cologne Zoo at the conference closing highlight; the congress dinner party. A beautiful atmosphere in an outstanding location and the chance to further connect and exchange with researchers in a chilled setting.

Besides the structural frame of our week, we wanna share some insights on the conference itself and therefore chose the five-finger feedback method.

Our Five-Finger-Evaluation on the EEA conference

What we enjoyed the most

We both agree that the general Lectures in the broadened audience were extremely interesting and inspiring. In contrast to the



more narrowed talks, the lectures were more intuitive and less technical. On Monday morning we got invited to think of the question whether the EU is an optimal political area or not. The presenting Guido Tabellini asked if Europe is sufficiently similar and how high costs of integration due to heterogeneity might be. An interesting and arguably relevant topic today and in the next years.

What we wanna point out

We found that in the theoretical economics lectures the academic frontier was relatively far away from our current state of knowledge. Another remark goes to the great chance to connect with Ph.D. students and researchers around the globe before and after sessions, during breaks and the social events.

What we did not like

puuuuh...difficult to find adequate critique regarding the conference. Pauses were long enough, food was prepared in masses, there was enough to select in topics and we had any chance to engage in discussions. However, we agreed on being happy to leave the coffee behind and being able to pause from sandwiches in the next weeks :)

What we are going to take with us

Malin found another career perspective in economic journalism and could connect to a bunch of inspiring contacts. In our last session with the catchy name of

#WhatEconomistsReallyDo we got encouraged in our thoughts that Economics as a discipline needs a push towards public discussions. There is great work out there relevant to the public regarding economic insights. It seems nevertheless a big step for busy researchers to share their findings in an easily understandable way.

What came too short

Jana would have wished to have longer discussions after the talks in the audience to get an impression on possible shortcomings in the models. These discussions probably mostly got postponed to the numerous coffee breaks between only a few researchers. Since Malin is focusing on latest privacy developments in Europe in her Thesis, she had relatively hard times to find insights related to that specific topic at the conference. Nevertheless, there were plenty of not named inspirations during the week.



If you are interested in any more details about our week and the impressions we got, please feel free to contact us. We wanna thank the Committee on Gender Equality for the beautiful chance to personally develop and being inspired during this week.

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