Tomáš Haufer

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Education

CERGE-EI, Charles University & Czech Academy of Sciences — Prague, Czech Republic
Master in Economic Research (MA) — Sep. 2025 – Jun. 2027 (expected)

- Grade average **1.00/1.00** (all A), 66 ECTS — first year of the programme.

Prague University of Economics and Business (VŠE) — Prague, Czech Republic
Bachelor's Degree in Economics — Sep. 2022 – Jun. 2025

- Graduated in the **top 10%** of the cohort.
- Thesis: *The Laffer Curve in the Czech Republic*; supervisor: Pavel Potužák; nominated by the examination committee for the Faculty of Economics Dean's Award for an outstanding thesis.

University of Agder (UiA) — Kristiansand, Norway
Erasmus+ Exchange Programme — Jan. 2024 – May 2024

- 27.5 ECTS: Business Analytics, Public Administration and Management, Norwegian.

Additional training: BREAD–IGC virtual PhD-level course in Political Economy, Sep.–Nov. 2026; Prague–Glasgow Summer School in Economics (VŠE and University of Glasgow), 2024.

Research Interests

Economic History · Institutional and Political Economy · Applied Economics

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Clara Sievert (full-time Jun.–Sep., part-time Oct.–Dec.) — CERGE-EI, Prague
Religion and development: data analysis of a field RCT in the DRC — Jun. 2026 – Dec. 2026

- Built a Stata and Python pipeline that merges four types of original surveys, constructs outcome indices and runs the treatment-effect regressions, with results shown in interactive dashboards of my own design.
- Presented results to Clara Sievert and her co-authors Nathan Nunn, Jonathan Weigel and Marina Ngoma; developed the analysis and output code with AI coding agents (Claude Code), verified by automated checks.
- Early-stage projects on Dutch and Czech economic history with Clara Sievert and Felipe Valencia Caicedo, drawing on large-scale digitised historical records and assessing the feasibility of new data sources.

Moody's Analytics — Prague, Czech Republic
Economic Analysis Summer Intern — Jun. 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Updated the Moody's Précis® Report for Romania, analysing the country's key macroeconomic indicators.
- Assisted with writing EViews scripts for data work on the Economic Scenarios for Climate Risk project and performed quality checks on forecast time series.
- Authored two published Economic View commentaries (CEE outlook; UAE oil shock) and contributed to work on exchange-rate equations in the Global Macroeconomic Model.

Research in Progress

The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldiers — MA thesis + paper
Loyalty and Desertion in the Czechoslovak Legions (supervisor: Sebastian Ottinger) — Feb. 2026 – present

- Asks how soldiers' nationalist and political views shaped two desertion decisions by the same men: from the Habsburg army into the Czechoslovak Legions, and later from the Legions themselves — a volunteer force.
- Assembles ~320,000 soldier records not previously used in economic research, scraped from the Legion register (csol.cz; ~133,000 legionnaires) and the Central Military Archive (VÚA; ~186,000 fallen Habsburg soldiers); maps each birthplace to its 1910 district with settlement crosswalks and GIS boundaries.
- Reads the scanned 1910 census place register of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia — the only source at settlement

level, down to each place's schools and other institutions — with several language models that check each other against hand-transcribed pages (F1 ≈ 0.96).
- Measures nationalism in soldiers' home areas from the member lists of Czech national societies (OCR of the printed rosters) and a scraped database of Czech amateur theatre (7,368 places, 1780–1913).

Written in Time Term Project, CERGE-EI
Emotional and stylistic structure in the Project Gutenberg corpus Feb. 2026 – May 2026

- Built a dataset of 59,969 English-language books × 79 features from Project Gutenberg full texts: NRC-lexicon emotion scores, stylometric measures and semantic fields, with author origin from public databases.
- Net of decade, country and genre fixed effects, post-1914 books show more fear (+0.16 SD), anger (+0.14 SD) and conflict words (+0.27 SD); clustering and network analysis map similar books and authors.

What Drives Referee Performance? Term Project, CERGE-EI
The effect of referee coaches on referee performance Oct. 2025 – Jan. 2026

- Built a panel of referee–match grades in Czech floorball (two regions, 2023/24–2024/25) by scraping public match data and matching it to the federation's internal records and the regional committee's coach reports.
- With referee, coach and referee-pair fixed effects, the first five coach observations improve the grade by 0.24 points (0.3 SD), as much as three to four years of experience; seminars have no effect.

Policy Commentary and Writing

Central and Eastern Europe Outlook: United in Diversity, Moody's Analytics Aug. 2025

Shifting Sands: The UAE Under an Oil Shock (with Thomas Sgouralis), Moody's Analytics Aug. 2025

Diary of an Econ Student — econdiary.substack.com, a data-driven economics blog Sep. 2025 – present

Skills

Programming: Python, R, Stata, EViews, LaTeX; LLM-assisted data extraction and coding pipelines.

Empirical methods: Panel data and fixed effects; IV/2SLS and GMM; time series; unsupervised learning; historical document transcription (OCR and LLM reading of scanned tables and lists); archival record linkage and geocoding; web scraping.

Languages: Czech (native), English (C1, Cambridge FCE Grade A), German (A2–B1), Norwegian (A1).

Test scores: TOEFL iBT 5.5/6 (Reading 6.0, Listening 6.0, Speaking 5.5, Writing 5.0), Sep. 2026; GRE Quantitative 164, Verbal 155, Analytical Writing 4.0, Oct. 2026.

Teaching and Service

Czech Floorball — Referee Coach and Member of the Regional Committee May 2023 – May 2027
Hradec Králové and Pardubice region. Supervise and train the region's referee coaches, teach at certification seminars, mentor referees and compile the statistics used for nominations. Voted the region's best referee coach (2023/24; third in 2022/23).

FBC Trutnov (DTJ) — Secretary / Manager Apr. 2023 – May 2027
Run a medium-sized sports club: budgeting, competition entries, logistics, partnerships, marketing.

Other Professional Experience

Siemens, s.r.o. — Trainee, Social Media and Communications, Trutnov Aug. 2023 – Feb. 2025

Investown Technologies, s.r.o. — Finance Analyst Intern, Prague Feb. 2023 – Jun. 2023

References

Sebastian Ottinger
Assistant Professor
CERGE-EI
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Clara Sievert
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Dawn Holland
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