

**CEP Discussion Paper No 985**

**June 2010**

**Quality Matters - The Expulsion of Professors  
and Ph.D. Student Outcomes in Nazi Germany**

**Fabian Waldinger**

## **Abstract**

I investigate the effect of faculty quality on Ph.D. student outcomes. To address the endogeneity of faculty quality I use exogenous variation provided by the expulsion of mathematics professors in Nazi Germany. I find that faculty quality is a very important determinant of short and long run Ph.D. student outcomes. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality increases the probability of publishing the dissertation in a top journal by 13 percentage points, the probability of becoming full professor by 10 percentage points, the probability of having positive lifetime citations by 16 percentage points, and the number of lifetime citations by 6.3.

**Keywords:** PhD students, university quality, faculty quality, Nazi Germany, dismissal of professors

**JEL Classifications:** I2, I21, J24, N34

This paper was produced as part of the Centre's Labour Markets Programme. The Centre for Economic Performance is financed by the Economic and Social Research Council.

## **Acknowledgements**

Veronika Rogers-Thomas and Michael Talbot provided excellent research assistance. I thank the editor Derek Neal and an anonymous referee for very helpful suggestions which have greatly improved the paper. Furthermore, Guy Michaels, Sharun Mukand, Andrew Oswald, Chris Woodruff, and especially Steve Pischke provided helpful comments and suggestions. Reinhard Siegmund-Schulze gave very valuable information on historical details. I am also grateful for comments received from seminar participants at Bank of Italy, Bocconi, LSE, Stanford, the CEPR EEEPE Conference in London, the CEP conference in Brighton, the Christmas Conference of German Economists Abroad in Heidelberg, and the CEPR ToM Conference in Milan. I gratefully acknowledge financial support from CEP at LSE.

Fabian Waldinger is an Occasional Research Assistant at the Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics and Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick,

Published by  
Centre for Economic Performance  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
London WC2A 2AE

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission in writing of the publisher nor be issued to the public or circulated in any form other than that in which it is published.

Requests for permission to reproduce any article or part of the Working Paper should be sent to the editor at the above address.

© F. Waldinger, submitted 2010

# Quality Matters

## The Expulsion of Professors and Ph.D Student Outcomes in Nazi Germany

### 1 Introduction

University quality is believed to be one of the key drivers for a successful professional career of university graduates. This is especially true for Ph.D. students. Attending a better university is likely to improve the quality of a student's dissertation and will provide students with superior skills and contacts. It is therefore not surprising that students who want to pursue a Ph.D. spend considerable time and effort to be admitted into the best Ph.D. programs. As a result, students obtaining their Ph.D. from the best universities often have the most successful career later in life. The positive relationship between university quality measured by average citations per faculty member and Ph.D. student outcomes is documented in Figure 1. The top panel shows the relationship between faculty quality and the probability that a Ph.D. student publishes her dissertation in a top journal for mathematics Ph. Ds in pre 1933 Germany. For comparison the bottom panel shows the relationship between university quality and the placement rate for mathematics Ph.D. students in the United States today.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Data for pre 1933 Germany are described in further detail below. Data for the US come from different sources compiled for the website [www.phds.org](http://www.phds.org). University quality is measured as average citations per faculty member between 1988 and 1992 (Data Source: National Research Council 1995). Placement rate is measured as the fraction of Ph.D. students who have secured a permanent job or Post-Doc at the time of graduation (Data source: Survey of Eamed Doctorates 2000-2004). The graph shows all mathematics departments with at least 9 mathematics Ph.D. graduates per year for the US data.

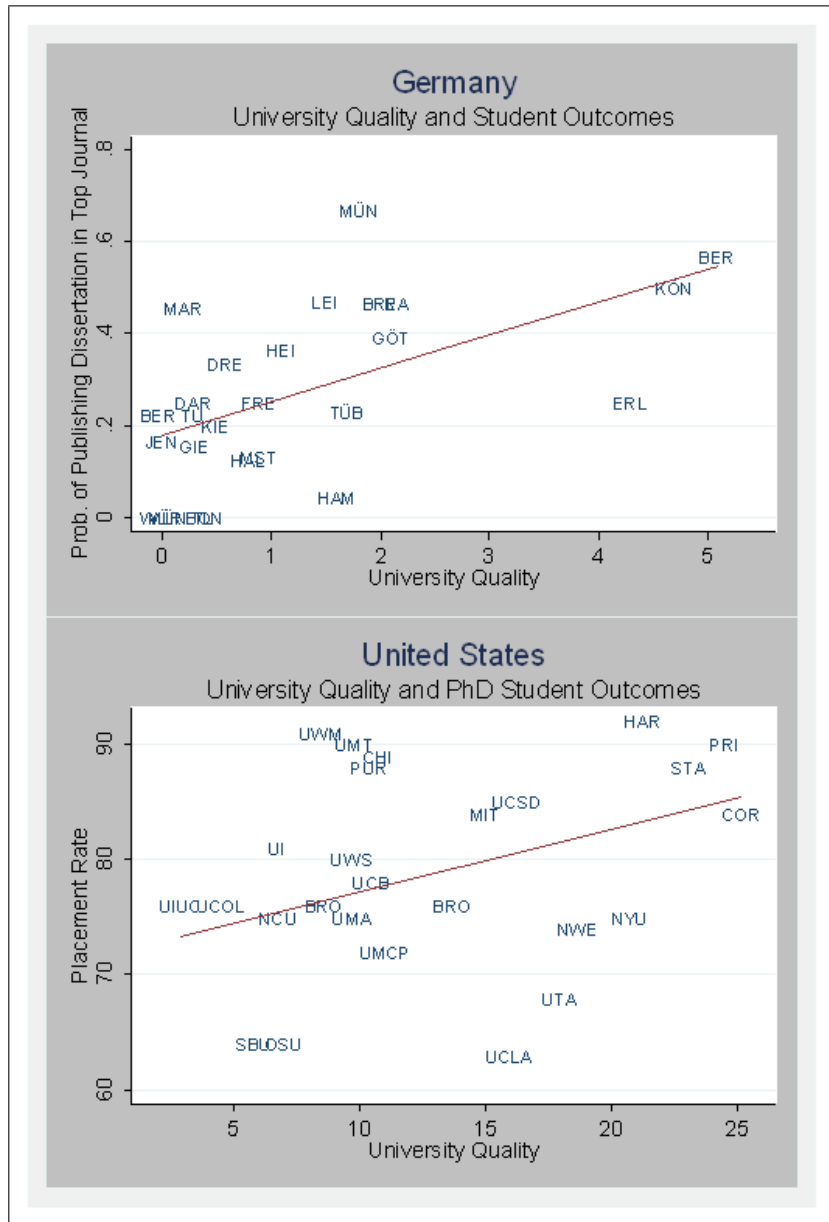


Figure 1: University Quality and PhD Student Outcomes

The figure demonstrates that university quality is a strong predictor of Ph.D. student outcomes. It is not certain, however, whether this correlation corresponds to a causal relationship. Obtaining evidence on the causal effect of university quality is complicated by a number of reasons. More talented and motivated students usually select universities of higher quality. The selection therefore biases OLS estimates of the university quality effect. Further biases are caused by omitted variables which are correlated with both university quality and student outcomes. One potential omitted factor is the quality of laboratories which is difficult to observe. Better laboratories increase professors' productivity and thus university quality measured by research output of the faculty. Better laboratories also improve students' outcomes. Not being able to fully control for laboratory quality will therefore bias conventional estimates of the effect of university quality on Ph.D. student outcomes. The estimation of university quality effects is also complicated by measurement error as it is extremely difficult to obtain measures for university quality. It is particularly challenging to construct quality measures that reflect the aspects of university quality which truly matter for Ph.D. students. Therefore any

measure of university quality is bound to measure true quality with a lot of error leading to further biases of OLS estimates.

To address these problems, I propose the dismissal of mathematics professors in Nazi Germany as a source of exogenous variation in university quality. Immediately after seizing power, the Nazi government dismissed all Jewish and ‘politically unreliable’ professors from the German universities. Overall, about 18 percent of all mathematics professors were dismissed between 1933 and 1934. Among the dismissals were some of the most eminent mathematicians of the time such as Johann von Neumann, Richard Courant, and Richard von Mises. Whereas some mathematics departments (Göttingen for example) lost more than 50 percent of their personnel, others were unaffected because they had not employed any Jewish or ‘politically unreliable’ mathematicians. As many of the dismissed professors were among the leaders of their profession the quality of most affected departments fell sharply due to the dismissals. This shock persisted until the end of my sample period because the majority of vacant positions could not be filled immediately. I investigate how this sharp, and I argue exogenous, drop in university quality affected Ph.D. students in departments with faculty dismissals compared to students in departments without dismissals.

I use a large number of historical sources to construct the data for my analysis. The main source is a compilation covering the universe of students who obtained their Ph.D. in mathematics from a German university between 1923 and 1938.<sup>2</sup> The data include rich information on the students’ university experience and their future career. An advantage of having data on Ph.D. students from the 1920s and 1930s is that they have all completed their scientific career (which in some cases stretched into the 1980s). One can therefore not only investigate short-term but also long term outcomes that reach almost to the present. This would not be possible with data on recent university graduates. I combine the Ph.D. student level dataset with data on all German mathematics professors including their publication and citation records. This allows me to construct yearly measures of university quality for all German mathematics departments. I obtain information on all dismissed professors from a number of sources and can therefore calculate how much university quality fell because of the dismissals after 1933. More details on the data sources are given in the data section below.

I use the combined dataset to estimate the causal effect of university quality on a variety of student outcomes. The outcomes not only cover the early stages of the former Ph.D. student’s career but also long-term outcomes. I find that the dismissal of Jewish and ‘politically unreliable’ professors had a very strong impact on university quality. The dismissal can therefore be used as a source of exogenous variation to identify the effect of university quality on Ph.D. student outcomes. The results indicate that university quality, measured by average faculty citations, is a very important determinant of Ph.D. student outcomes. In particular, I find that increasing average faculty quality by one standard deviation increases the probability that a former Ph.D. student publishes her dissertation by about 13 percentage points. I also investigate how university quality affects the long-run career of the former Ph.D. students. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality increases the probability of becoming full professor later in life by about 10 percentage points and lifetime citations by 6.3 (the average former Ph.D. student has about 11 lifetime citations). I also show that the probability of having positive lifetime citations increases by 16 percentage points. This indicates that the lifetime citation results are not driven by outliers.

These results indicate that the quality of training matters greatly even in highly selective education markets such as German mathematics in the 1920s and 30s. At that time, it was very common

---

<sup>2</sup>I do not consider the years after 1938 because of the start of World War II in 1939.

that outstanding mathematics students from lower ranked universities transferred to the best places such Göttingen and Berlin to obtain their Ph.D. under the supervision of one of the leading mathematics professors. German mathematics during that time can be considered a great example of a flourishing research environment. The likes of David Hilbert, John von Neuman, Emmy Noether, and many others were rapidly advancing the scientific frontier in many fields of mathematics. I therefore believe that these results are particularly informative about thriving research communities such as the United States today. While it is difficult to assess a study's external validity it is reassuring that the organization of mathematical research in Germany of the 1920s and 1930s was very similar to today's practices. Mathematicians published their findings in academic journals and conferences were very common and widely attended. It is particularly informative to read recommendation letters that mathematics professors had written for their former Ph.D. students. Their content and style is strikingly similar to today's academic references (see for example Bergmann and Epple, 2009).

To my knowledge, this paper is the first to investigate the effect of university quality on Ph.D. student outcomes using credibly exogenous variation in quality. The existing literature on Ph.D. student outcomes has mostly shown correlations which are only indicative of the causal effect of university quality. Siegfried and Stock (2002) show that economics Ph.D. students in the United States who graduate from higher ranked programs complete their Ph.D. faster, have higher salaries, and are more likely to be full-time employed. In a similar study Stock, Finegan, and Siegfried (2006) show that Ph.D. students in mid-ranked economics programs in the United States have higher attrition rates than students in higher or lower ranked programs. Van Ours and Ridder (2003) studying Dutch economics Ph.D. students from three universities, find that students who are supervised by more active researchers have lower drop-out and higher completion rates.

Other researchers have investigated the effect of university quality on the career of undergraduates. These findings cannot be easily extrapolated to Ph.D. students because department quality, in particular research output of the faculty, is likely to have a different impact on Ph.D. students. Nonetheless, it is interesting to compare my findings to the findings on undergraduates. The studies on undergraduates usually investigate the effect of college quality on wages. A large part of the literature tries to tackle the endogeneity problem using a large set of control variables or matching estimators.<sup>3</sup> Only a few studies attempt to tackle the endogeneity problem more rigorously. Dale and Krueger (2002) measure college quality by SAT scores which captures the effect of undergraduate peers and is likely to act as a proxy for faculty quality. They address selection bias by matching students who were accepted by similar sets of colleges. While they do not find evidence for positive returns to attending a more selective college for the general population, children from disadvantaged families earn more if they attend a more selective college. Behrman, Rosenzweig and Taubman (1996) use twins to control for selection and find that attending private colleges, Ph.D. granting colleges, or colleges with higher faculty salaries increase earnings later in life. Brewer, Eide and Ehrenberg (1999) use a structural selection model with variables related to college costs as exclusion restrictions and find that undergraduate college quality has a significant impact on wages.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup>See for example Hussain, McNally, and Telhaj (2009) or Black and Smith (2004, 2006).

<sup>4</sup>A more recent strand of the literature has tried to disentangle the impact of different professor attributes on academic achievement of undergraduate students within a university. Hoffmann and Oreopoulos (2009) find that subjective teacher evaluations have an important impact on academic achievement. Objective characteristics such as rank and salary of professors do not seem to affect student achievement. Carell and West (2008) find that academic rank and teaching experience is negatively related to contemporaneous student achievement but positively to the achievement in follow-on courses in mathematics and science. For humanities they find almost no relationship between professor attributes and student achievement.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: the next section gives a brief description of historical details. A particular focus lies on the description of the dismissal of mathematics professors. Section 3 describes the data sources in more detail. Section 4 outlines the identification strategy. The effect of faculty quality on Ph.D. student outcomes is analyzed in section 5. Section 6 concludes.

## 2 German Universities and National Socialism

### 2.1 The Expulsion of Jewish and ‘Politically Unreliable’ Professors

This section gives an overview of the dismissal of mathematics professors which will be used to identify the effect of faculty quality. For simplicity, I use the term ‘professors’ for all faculty members who had the right to lecture at a German university which includes everybody who was at least ‘Privatdozent’.<sup>5</sup>

Just over two months after the National Socialist Party seized power in 1933 the Nazi government passed the "Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service" on the 7th of April of 1933. Despite this misleading name the law was used to expel all Jewish and ‘politically unreliable’ persons from civil service in Germany. At that time most German university professors were civil servants. Therefore the law was directly applicable to them. Via additional ordinances the law was also applied to other university employees who were not civil servants. The main parts of the law read:

*Paragraph 3: Civil servants who are not of Aryan descent are to be placed in retirement... (this) does not apply to officials who had already been in the service since the 1st of August, 1914, or who had fought in the World War at the front for the German Reich or for its allies, or whose fathers or sons had been casualties in the World War.*

*Paragraph 4: Civil servants who, based on their previous political activities, cannot guarantee that they have always unreservedly supported the national state, can be dismissed from service.*

["Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service", quoted after Hentschel (1996)]

A further implementation decree specified ‘Aryan decent’ as: "Anyone descended from Non-Aryan, and in particular Jewish, parents or grandparents, is considered non-Aryan. It is sufficient that one parent or one grandparent be non-Aryan." Thus professors who were baptized Christians were dismissed if they had a least one Jewish grandparent. Also undesired political activities were further specified and members of the Communist Party were all expelled.

The law was immediately implemented and resulted in a wave of dismissals and early retirements from the German universities. A careful early study by Harthorne published in 1937 counts 1111 dismissals from the German universities and technical universities between 1933 and 1934.<sup>6</sup> This

---

<sup>5</sup>At that time a researcher could hold a number of different university positions. Ordinary Professors held a chair for a certain subfield and were all civil servants. Furthermore there were different types of Extraordinary Professors. First, they could be either civil servants (beamteter Extraordinarius) or not have the status of a civil servant (nichtbeamteter Extraordinarius). Universities also distinguished between extraordinary extraordinary professors (ausserplanmäßiger Extraordinarius) and planned extraordinary professors (planmäßiger Extraordinarius). Then at the lowest level of university teachers were the Privatdozenten who were never civil servants. Privatdozent is the first university position a researcher could obtain after obtaining the ‘Right to Teach’ (venia legendi).

<sup>6</sup>The German university system had a number of different university types. The main ones were the traditional universities and the technical universities. The traditional universities usually covered the full spectrum of subjects whereas the technical universities focused on technical subjects.

amounts to about 15 percent of the 7266 university researchers present at the beginning of 1933. Most dismissals occurred in 1933 immediately after the law was implemented. Not everybody was dismissed in 1933 because the law allowed Jewish scholars to retain their position if they had been in office since 1914, if they had fought in the First World War, or had lost a father or son in the war. Nonetheless, many of the scholars who could stay according to this exception decided to leave voluntarily; for example the famous applied mathematician Richard von Mises who was working on aerodynamics and solid mechanics at the University of Berlin. The originally exempted scholars were just anticipating a later dismissal as the Reich citizenship laws (Reichsbürgergesetz) of 1935 revoked the exception clause.

Table 1 reports the number of dismissed mathematics professors. Similarly to Harthorne, I focus my analysis on researchers who had the Right to Teach (*venia legendi*) at a German university. According to my calculations, about 18.3 percent of all mathematics professors were dismissed between 1933 and 1934. It is interesting to note that the percentage of dismissals was much higher than the fraction of Jews living in Germany which was about 0.7 percent of the total population at the beginning of 1933.

My data does not allow me to identify whether the researchers were dismissed because they were Jewish or because of their political orientation. Other researchers, however, have investigated this issue and have shown that the vast majority of the dismissed were either Jewish or of Jewish decent. Siegmund-Schultze (1998) estimates that about 79 percent of the dismissed scholars in mathematics were Jewish.

Before giving further details on the distribution of dismissals across different universities I am going to provide a brief overview of the fate of the dismissed professors. Immediately after the first wave of dismissals in 1933, foreign émigré aid organizations were founded to assist the dismissed scholars in obtaining positions in foreign universities. The first organization to be founded was the English ‘Academic Assistance Council’ (later renamed into ‘Society for the Protection of Science and Learning’). It was established as early as April 1933 by the director of the London School of Economics Sir William Beveridge. In the United States the ‘Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Scholars’ was founded in 1933. Another important aid organization, founded in 1935 by some of the dismissed scholars themselves, was the ‘Emergency Alliance of German Scholars Abroad’ (‘Notgemeinschaft Deutscher Wissenschaftler im Ausland’). The main purpose of these and other, albeit smaller, organizations was to assist the dismissed scholars in finding positions abroad. In addition to that, prominent individuals like Eugen Wigner or Hermann Weyl tried to use their extensive network of personal contacts to find employment for less well-known mathematicians. Due to the very high international reputation of German mathematics many of them could find positions without the help of aid organizations. Less renowned and older scholars had more problems in finding adequate positions abroad. Initially, many dismissed scholars fled to European countries. Most of these countries were only a temporary refuge because the dismissed researchers only obtained temporary positions in many cases. The expanding territory of Nazi Germany in the early stages of World War II led to a second wave of emigration from the countries which were invaded by the German army. The main final destinations of dismissed mathematics professors were the United States, England, Turkey, and Palestine. The biggest proportion of dismissed scholars eventually moved to the United States. For the purposes of this paper it is important to note that the vast majority of the emigrations took place immediately after the researchers were dismissed from their university positions. It was therefore extremely difficult that dismissed supervisors could continue to unofficially supervise their former Ph.D. students. A very small minority of the dismissed professors did not leave Germany and most of



them died in concentration camps or committed suicide. Extremely few managed to stay in Germany and survive the Nazi regime. Even the mathematicians who stayed in Germany were no longer allowed to use university resources for their research. The possibility of ongoing supervision of their students was thus extremely limited.

The aggregate numbers of dismissals hide the fact that the German universities were affected very differently. Even within a university there was a lot of variation across different departments.<sup>7</sup> Whereas some mathematics departments did not experience any dismissals, others lost more than 50 percent of their personnel. As shown above, the vast majority of dismissals occurred between 1933 and 1934. Only a small number of mathematics professors were dismissed after that. The few dismissals occurring after 1933 affected researchers who had been exempted under the clause for war veterans or for having obtained their position before 1914. In addition to that, some political dismissals occurred during the later years. In order to have a sharp dismissal measure I focus on the dismissals in 1933 and 1934. Table 2 reports the number of dismissals in the different mathematics departments. Some of the best departments were hit hardest by the dismissals. Göttingen, for example, lost almost 60 percent of its mathematics faculty while Berlin the other leading university lost almost 40 percent. The following quote from a conversation between David Hilbert (one of the most influential mathematicians of the early 20th century) and Bernhard Rust (Nazi minister of education) at a banquet in 1934 exemplifies the dimension of the dismissals for the mathematics department in Göttingen and the complete ignorance of the Nazi elite.

*Rust: "How is mathematics in Göttingen now that it has been freed of Jewish influence?"*

*Hilbert: "Mathematics in Göttingen? There is really none any more."*

[quoted after Reid (1996)]

Table 3 gives a more detailed picture of the quantitative and qualitative loss to German mathematics. The dismissed mathematics professors were on average younger than their colleagues who remained in Germany and much more productive as is exemplified by the publications and citations data.<sup>8</sup>

## 2.2 Ph.D. students in Germany

I will analyze the effect of the dismissal of professors on the outcomes of mathematics Ph.D. students. Table 4 summarizes some of the characteristics of the Ph.D. students in my sample.<sup>9</sup>

At the time, students of mathematics could obtain two degrees: a high school teacher diploma (Staatsexamen) and/or the Ph.D.<sup>10</sup> The majority of all students studying mathematics obtained a high school teacher diploma and mostly started working as high school teachers. Abele, Neunzert, and Tobies (2004) calculate that about 8 percent of all mathematics students at the time obtained a Ph.D. in mathematics. In this study I focus on *Ph.D.* students. The mathematics Ph.D. students were

<sup>7</sup>See Waldinger (2009) for the number of dismissals in physics and chemistry departments.

<sup>8</sup>For a more detailed description of the publications and citations data see the Data section.

<sup>9</sup>Further details on data sources are given in the Data section below.

<sup>10</sup>In the 1920s the first Technical Universities started to offer the diploma (Diplom) as an alternative degree to students of mathematics. In the beginning only a very small fraction of mathematics students chose to obtain a diploma. Only 63 students in all technical universities obtained a Diploma between 1932 to 1941 (see Lorenz, 1943). From 1942 onwards the diploma was also offered by the traditional universities.

on average 27 years old when they obtained their degree. About 9 percent were female and 8 percent foreigners, respectively. The future Ph.D. students enrolled in university after high school (Abitur) and then took courses for 8 or 9 semesters. It was very common to change universities at the time. The average Ph.D. student in my sample had about one university transfer during her studies. About 30 percent of students changed university at least twice.

About half of the mathematics Ph.D. students obtained the Ph.D. degree, only. The other half also obtained the high school teacher diploma. Ph.D. students usually started working on their dissertation after completing their coursework i.e. after about 4 to 5 years. They then worked on their thesis for about 3 years. After submitting their dissertation they had to pass an oral examination.

My data shows that about 24 percent published their dissertation in a top academic journal. Later in their career about 19 percent became chaired professor. During their career the average former Ph.D. student had about 11 lifetime citations. About 30 percent of the sample has positive lifetime citations. Table 4 also demonstrates that students who obtained their Ph.D. from a top 10 university (measured by average faculty quality) had better outcomes. They were more likely to publish their dissertation in a top journal, more likely to become full professor and had higher lifetime citations. This, of course, does not indicate that university quality has a causal impact on Ph.D. student outcomes because of the endogenous sorting of good students into high quality universities.

The following changes affected student life after the Nazi government seized power. After 1934 the new government restricted student numbers by introducing a quota on first-year enrollments which was not binding, though.<sup>11</sup> Overall student numbers fell during the 1930s but this fall was only partly caused by the Nazi quota. Two other factors were also responsible for falling student numbers. The high unemployment figures of university graduates caused by the great depression and the fact that the smaller birth cohorts that were born during the First World War were entering university. Hartshorne (1937) shows that student numbers started falling from 1931 onwards and thus already 2 years before the Nazi government came into power and 3 years before it introduced quotas for the entering cohorts.

Jewish students were subject to discrimination already some months after the Nazi government gained power. On the 25th of April 1933 the Nazi government passed the 'Law against Overcrowding in Schools and Universities'. The law limited the proportion of Jewish students among the *entering* cohort to 1.5 percent. The proportion of Jewish students among existing students in all universities and departments was capped at 5 percent. This cap, however, was never binding as no department had a larger fraction of Jewish students.<sup>12</sup>

The enactment of the Reich citizenship laws (Reichsbürgergesetz) of 1935 aggravated the situation for Jews living in Germany. The university quotas, however, were left unchanged even though they became more and more meaningless as many Jewish students discontinued their studies because of the continuous humiliation or because they were fleeing from Germany. Jewish students who did not leave could obtain a Ph.D. degree until April 1937. Students who had only some Jewish grandparents could in principle continue to obtain a Ph.D. until 1945 but had to pass the scrutiny of the Nazi party's

---

<sup>11</sup>In the first semester of the quota (summer semester 1934) the number of entering students was set at 15,000. The actual entering cohort in the previous year had been 20,000. The quota of 15,000, however, was not binding as only 11,774 students entered university in the summer semester of 1934. The Nazi government furthermore capped the number of female students at 10 percent of the whole entering cohort (the actual fraction of female students in 1932 had been about 18 percent). For further details see Harthorne (1937).

<sup>12</sup>Jewish students whose father had fought in WWI and Jewish students who had only one or two Jewish grandparents were counted as Non-Jewish for the calculation of the quotas. The proportion of Jewish students defined in that way had been below 5 percent in all universities and departments even before 1933.

local organizations, assessing their alignment with the Nazi party.<sup>13</sup>

Figure A2 shows the total number of Jewish Ph.D. students in each Ph.D. cohort.<sup>14</sup> The Ph.D. student data reflects the political changes very well. The number of Jewish Ph.D. students is more or less constant until 1934. From 1935 onwards it declines and is 0 in 1938. The figure also demonstrates that the total number of Jewish students was not very large. The data only include students who actually finished the Ph.D. I can therefore not directly investigate how many Jewish students discontinued their studies during the Nazi era. The pre 1933 figures, however, suggest that about four Jewish students per year left the German system in the later years of the sample. The relatively small number of Jewish Ph.D. students makes it unlikely that their selection into departments with many Jewish professors may be driving my results. Nonetheless I explore this possibility in my analysis and I show below that my results are unaffected by excluding all Jewish students from the regressions.

I only consider students who obtained their Ph.D. until 1938. This Ph.D. cohort entered university in 1930 on average. During their coursework (the first 4 to 5 years of their studies) the policies of the Nazi government affected them only relatively late. As the Nazi government was extremely centralized, the measures of the new government affected all universities in the same fashion. In my identification strategy I exploit the fact that different departments were affected very differently by the dismissal of professors and I control for Ph.D. cohort fixed effects. There is thus no worry that these aggregate policies affect my findings.

## 3 Data

### 3.1 Data on Ph.D. Students

The data on Ph.D. students include the universe of students who received their Ph.D. in mathematics from a German university between 1923 and 1938. The data were originally compiled by Renate Tobies for the German Mathematical Association (Deutsche Mathematiker Vereinigung). She consulted all university archives of the former Ph.D. students and combined that information with data from additional sources.<sup>15</sup> The dataset includes short biographies of the Ph.D. students including information on the universities the Ph.D. students attended, whether and where they published their dissertation, and their professional career after obtaining their Ph.D. I define four outcome variables for Ph.D. students. The first, a short term outcome, is a dummy variable indicating whether the student publishes her dissertation in a top journal. The second outcome looks at the long run career of the former Ph.D. students. It is a dummy variable which takes the value of 1 if the former student ever becomes full professor during her career. I also constructed a third outcome equal to the number of lifetime citations in mathematics journals. To explore whether the lifetime citation results are driven by outliers I also use an indicator for positive lifetime citations as a fourth outcome.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup>For a detailed report on the life of Jewish students in Nazi Germany see Olenhusen (1966).

<sup>14</sup>The data do not include the students' religion. They include, however, a lot of biographical information. Most Jewish students managed to emigrate from Germany. This is indicated in the biographical information of the data. I classify any student who emigrates between 1933 and 1945 as Jewish.

<sup>15</sup>For a more detailed description of the data collection process see Tobies (2006).

<sup>16</sup>Lifetime citations are obtained by merging data from all mathematics journals in the Web of Science listed below (see section 3.4) to the Ph.D. students. I then calculated lifetime citations as all citations the former Ph.D. student received for publications in mathematics journals published in the year before obtaining his Ph.D. and the first 30 years after Ph.D. graduation. Citations of these articles are counted until the present.

I combine the data on Ph.D. students with information on the quality of departments measured by the faculty's research output. I also obtain measures of how department quality changed due to the dismissal of professors.

### 3.2 Data on Dismissed Mathematics Professors

The data on dismissed mathematics professors is obtained from a number of different sources. The main source is the 'List of Displaced German Scholars'. This list was compiled by the relief organization 'Emergency Alliance of German Scholars Abroad' and was published in 1936. The appendix shows a sample page from the mathematics part of the list including two very prominent dismissals; Richard Courant, who later founded the renowned 'Courant Institute for Mathematical Sciences' at New York University and Paul Bernays who was working on axiomatic set theory and mathematical logic. Both of them were dismissed from Göttingen. The purpose of publishing the list was the facilitation of finding positions for the dismissed professors in countries outside Germany. Overall, the list contained about 1650 names of researchers from all university subjects. I have extracted all mathematicians from the list. In the introductory part, the editors of the list explain that they have made the list as complete as possible. It is therefore the most common source used by historians of science investigating the dismissals of professors in Nazi Germany. Out of various reasons, for example if the dismissed died before the list was compiled, a small number of dismissed scholars did not appear on the list. To get a more precise measure of all dismissals I complement the information in the 'List of Displaced German Scholars' with information from other sources.<sup>17</sup>

The main additional source is the 'Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933 - Vol. II : The arts, sciences, and literature'. The compilation of the handbook was initiated by the 'Institut für Zeitgeschichte München' and the 'Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration New York'. Published in 1983, it contained short biographies of artists and university researchers who emigrated from Nazi Germany.<sup>18</sup>

In addition to these two main data sources, I obtained further dismissals from a list compiled by Siegmund-Schultze (1998) who has studied the history of mathematics in Nazi Germany.

The complete list of dismissed professors also contains a few researchers who were initially exempted from being dismissed but resigned voluntarily. The vast majority of them would have been dismissed due to the racial laws of 1935 anyway and were thus only anticipating their dismissal. All of these voluntary resignations were directly caused by the discriminatory policies of the Nazi regime.

### 3.3 Roster of Mathematics Professors between 1923 and 1938

To assess the effect of department quality on student outcomes one needs yearly measures of faculty quality for each of the 33 German mathematics departments. I measure department quality as the average quality of all mathematics professors who were present in a given department and year. I

---

<sup>17</sup>Slightly less than 20 percent of the 1933 to 1934 dismissals do only appear in the additional sources but not in the "List of Displaced German Scholars".

<sup>18</sup>Kröner (1983) extracted a list of all dismissed university researchers from the handbook. I use Kröner's list to append my list of dismissed mathematics professors.

therefore construct a complete roster of all mathematics professors at the German universities from 1923 to 1938 using data published in the semi-official ‘University Calendar’.<sup>19</sup>

The data contain all mathematics professors (with their affiliation in each year) from winter semester 1922/1923 (lasting from November 1922 until April 1923) until winter semester 1937/1938. The data for the ten technical universities start in 1927/1928 as they were only published in the University Calendar after that date. The University Calendar is a compilation of all individual university calendars listing the lectures held by each scholar in a given department. I can identify all mathematics professors by the lectures they are giving (such as ‘Algebra II’ for example). If a researcher was not lecturing in a given semester he was listed with his subject under the heading ‘not lecturing’.<sup>20</sup>

### 3.4 A Measure of Department Quality Based on Publication Data

To measure the dismissals’ effect on department quality I construct productivity measures for each professor. These are then averaged within departments to measure department quality in each academic year. The productivity measure is based on publications in the top academic journals of the time. At that time most German mathematicians published in German journals. The quality of the German journals was usually very high because many of the German mathematicians were among the leaders in their field.

The top publications measure for each mathematics professor is based on articles contained in the online database ‘ISI Web of Science’.<sup>21</sup> I extract all German speaking mathematics journals that are included in the database for the time period 1920 to 1938. Furthermore, I add the most important foreign mathematics journals of the time which were important outlets for German mathematicians.<sup>22</sup>

About 70 percent of the publications by mathematicians are in pure mathematics journals. Some mathematicians also published more applied work, on theoretical physics for example, in general science, physics, and even chemistry journals from time to time. To get a more accurate productivity measure for the professors I also extract the most important German and foreign journals in those fields from the Web of Science. Table A1 lists all journals used in the analysis.

For each of these journals I obtain all articles published between 1925 and 1932. A very small number of contributions in the top journals were letters to the editor or comments. I restrict my

---

<sup>19</sup>The University Calendar was published by J.A. Barth. He collected the official university calendars from all German universities and compiled them into one volume. Originally named "Deutscher Universitätskalender". It was renamed "Kalender der deutschen Universitäten und technischen Hochschulen" in 1927/1928. From 1929/1930 it was renamed "Kalender der Deutschen Universitäten und Hochschulen". In 1933 it was again renamed into "Kalender der reichs-deutschen Universitäten und Hochschulen".

<sup>20</sup>The dismissed researchers who were not civil servants (Privatdozenten and some Extraordinary Professors) all disappear from the University Calendar between winter semester 1932/1933 and winter semester 1933/1934. Some of the dismissed researchers who were civil servants (Ordinary Professors and some Extraordinary Professors), however, were still listed even after they were dismissed. The original law forced Jewish civil servants into early retirement. As they were still on the states’ payroll some universities still listed them in the University Calendar even though they were not allowed to teach or do research anymore (which is explicitly stated in the calendar in some cases). My list of dismissals includes the exact year after which somebody was barred from teaching and researching at a German university. I thus use the dismissal data to determine the actual dismissal date and not the year a dismissed scholar disappears from the University Calendars.

<sup>21</sup>In 2004 the database was extended to include publications between 1900 and 1945. The journals included in that extension were all journals which had published the most relevant articles in the years 1900 to 1945 based on their citations in later years. (For more details on the process see [www.thomsonscientific.com/media/presentrep/facts/centuryofscience.pdf](http://www.thomsonscientific.com/media/presentrep/facts/centuryofscience.pdf)). The journals available in the Web of Science are therefore by construction the top journals of the time period 1900-1945 with a heavy emphasis on German journals because of the leading role of German mathematics at the time.

<sup>22</sup>The foreign mathematics journals were suggested by Reinhard Siegmund-Schultze and David Wilkins; both are specialists in the history of mathematics.

analysis to contributions classified as ‘articles’ as they provide a cleaner measure for a researcher’s productivity. The database includes the names of the authors of each article and statistics on the number of subsequent citations of each of these articles.

For each mathematics professor I then calculate a measure of his pre-dismissal productivity. It is based on his publications in top journals in the 8 years between 1925 and 1932. For each of these publications I then count the number of citations these articles received in the first 50 years after publication. This includes citations in journals which are not in my list of journals but which appear in the Web of Science. The measure therefore includes citations from the entire international scientific community. The measure is therefore less heavily based on German mathematics. I then calculate the yearly average of this citation weighted publications measure for each professor. The following simple example illustrates the construction of the pre-dismissal productivity measure. Suppose a mathematician published two top journal articles between 1925 and 1932. One is cited 10 times the other 6 times in any journal covered by the Web of Science in the 50 years after its publication. The researcher’s pre-dismissal citation weighed publications measure is therefore  $(10+6)/8(\text{years}) = 2$ . Table A2 lists the top mathematics professors according to the pre-dismissal productivity measure. It is reassuring to realize that the vast majority of these top 20 researchers are well known in the mathematics community. Economists will find it interesting that Johann von Neumann is the most cited mathematician.<sup>23</sup>

Yearly department quality measures are then calculated as the department average of the individual productivity measures. Say a department has 3 mathematics professors with citation weighted productivity measures equal to 1, 2, and 3. Department quality is then equal to  $(1+2+3)/3 = 2$ . This measure only changes if the composition of the department changes. The implicit assumption of calculating department quality in this way is that Richard Courant always contributes in the same way to department quality independently of how much he publishes in a given year.<sup>24</sup>

I combine the Ph.D. student level data with measures of faculty quality based on publications in top journals and with information on the effect of the dismissal of professors on faculty quality and department size to obtain my final dataset.

---

<sup>23</sup>The large number of very well known mathematicians among the top 20 researchers indicates that citation weighted publications are a good measure of a scholar’s productivity. Nevertheless, the measure is not perfect. As the "Web of Science" only reports last names and the initial of the first name for each author there are some cases where I cannot unambiguously match researchers and publications. In these cases I assign the publication to the researcher whose field is most closely related to the field of the journal in which the article was published. In the very few cases where this assignment rule is still ambiguous between two researchers I assign each researcher half of the citation weighted publications. Another problem is the relatively large number of misspellings of authors’ names. All articles published at that time were of course published on paper. In order to include these articles into the electronic database Thomson Scientific employees scanned all articles published in the historically most relevant journals. The scanning was error prone and thus lead to misspellings of some names. As far as I discovered these misspellings I manually corrected them.

<sup>24</sup>Yearly department quality is measured as the mean of the individual productivities of all current department members. Individual productivities are computed as average productivity between 1925 and 1932 for each individual. Using performance measures that rely on post 1933 data is problematic because the dismissals may affect post 1933 publications of professors. In particular, one would likely underestimate the quality of some of the professors who were dismissed. The 1925 to 1932 productivity measure is, however, not defined for the very few mathematics professors who join after 1933. These professors are therefore not included in the calculation of the post 1933 department averages. An alternative way of calculating average department quality uses publications in years until 1938 which is defined for all professors but may be affected by the dismissal of professors. Using this alternative way of measuring department quality leaves the results unchanged.

## 4 Identification

Using this dataset I investigate the effect of faculty quality and department size on Ph.D. student outcomes with the following regression model.

$$(1) \quad \text{Outcome}_{idt} = \beta_1 + \beta_2(\text{Avg. Faculty Quality})_{dt-1} + \beta_3(\text{Students-Faculty-Ratio})_{dt-1} \\ + \beta_4\text{Female}_{idt} + \beta_5\text{Foreigner}_{idt} + \beta_6\text{CohortFE}_t + \beta_7\text{DepartmentFE}_d + \varepsilon_{idt}$$

I regress the outcome of student  $i$  from department  $d$  who obtains her Ph.D. in year  $t$  on a measure of university quality, students-per-faculty ratio and other controls. The main controls are dummy variables indicating whether the Ph.D. student is female or foreigner. To control for factors affecting a whole Ph.D. cohort I also include a full set of yearly cohort dummies. I also control for department level factors which affect Ph.D. student outcomes and are constant over time by including a full set of department fixed effects. In some specifications reported below I also control for a set of 28 dummy variables indicating father's occupation.<sup>25</sup>

The main coefficient of interest is  $\beta_2$  indicating how faculty quality affects Ph.D. student outcomes. A further interesting coefficient is  $\beta_3$  which indicates how the students per faculty ratio affects Ph.D. students. The number of students which is used to construct the students per faculty variable, measures the size of the whole cohort of mathematics students in a given department that may decide to obtain a Ph.D.<sup>26</sup>

Estimating this equation using OLS will, however, lead to biased results, as university quality is endogenous. The estimates are likely to be biased because of three reasons; selection of inherently better students into better universities, omitted variables, such as the quality of laboratories, and measurement error of the faculty quality variable. Measurement error occurs because of two main reasons. First, average faculty citations measure the particular aspects of faculty quality that matter for Ph.D. student success with substantial error. Secondly, measurement error comes from misspellings of last names in the publications data and the fact that the Web of Science only reports the first letter of each author's first name.

Similar problems affect the OLS coefficient of the students-faculty-ratio; for example because inherently better Ph.D. students may choose to study in departments with a lower students-faculty-ratio.

In order to address these concerns I propose the dismissal of mathematics professors in Nazi Germany as an exogenous source of variation in quality and size of mathematics departments (which affects the students-faculty-ratio). As outlined before, Ph.D. students in some departments experienced a large shock to the quantity and quality of the faculty whereas others were not affected. Figure

---

<sup>25</sup>The most important occupations are salesman, high school teacher, primary or middle school teacher, salaried employee, higher level civil servant, craftsmen, and civil servant in the national post office. For about 30 percent of the sample father's occupation is missing. I therefore include an additional dummy indicating whether father's occupation is missing.

<sup>26</sup>As mentioned before, only a small fraction of all mathematics students in a given department proceeds to obtain a Ph.D. degree (the majority leaves university with a high school teacher diploma). University quality may affect the number of students who enroll and/or complete the Ph.D. It is therefore preferable to use all mathematics students (not only Ph.D. students) in a department to construct the students-per-faculty measure. Otherwise one would control for a variable that is endogenous to university quality. The average Ph.D. student takes courses for 4 years and subsequently works on her dissertation for 3 years. A student who obtains her Ph.D. in 1932 therefore comes from a cohort of students that was taking courses at her university 3 years earlier (i.e. in 1929). I therefore assign each Ph.D. student his potential cohort size using all mathematics students in her department 3 years prior to her Ph.D. completion date. The data on all mathematics students in each department and year come from the "Deutsche Hochschulstatistik" volumes 1 to 14 and "Statistisches Jahrbuch" volumes 1919 to 1924/25.

2 shows how the dismissal of professors affected mathematics departments.

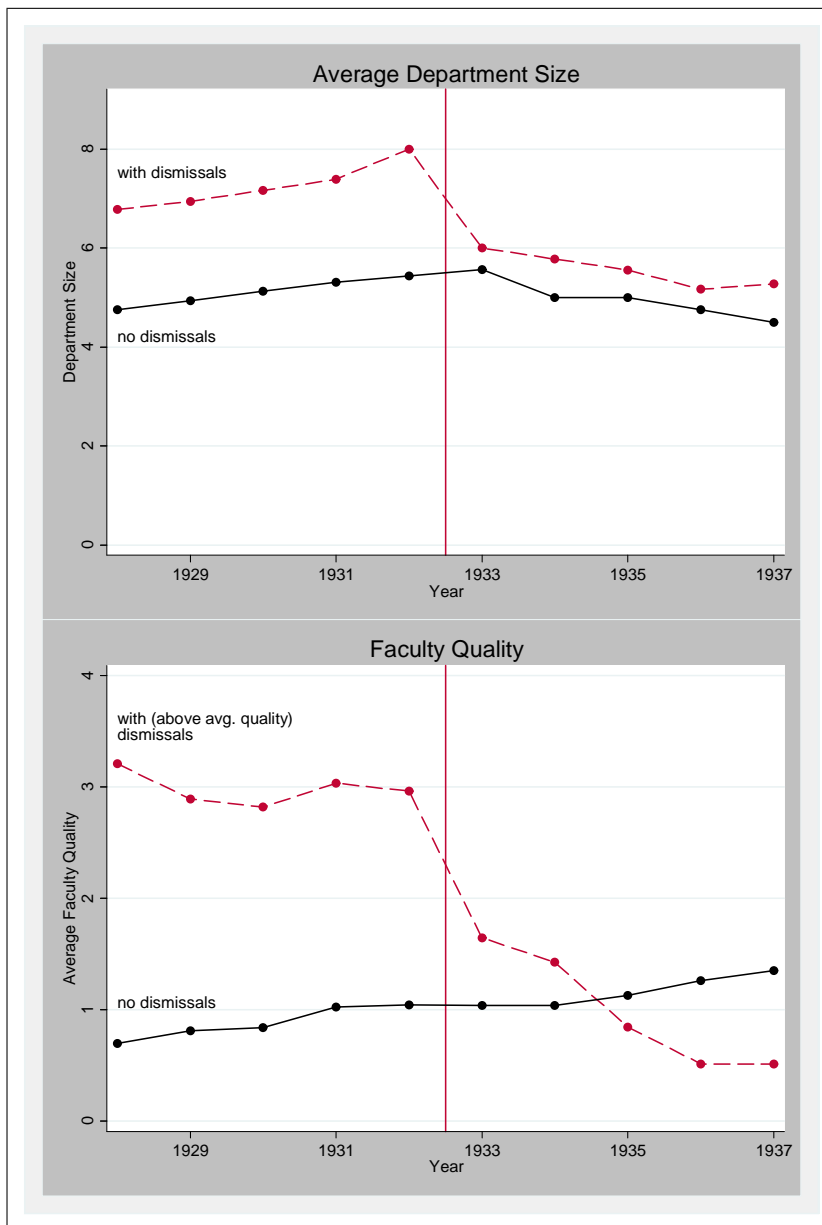


Figure 2: First Stages

The dashed line shows mathematics departments with dismissals in 1933 or 1934. The solid line shows departments without dismissals. The top panel shows that affected departments were of above average size. Not surprisingly, the dismissal caused a strong reduction in the number of mathematics professors in the affected departments. In the same time period the size of departments without dismissals remained relatively constant. The dismissed were not immediately replaced because of a lack of suitable researchers without a position and the slow appointment procedures. Successors for dismissed chaired professors, for example, could only be appointed if the dismissed scholars gave up their pension rights, because the dismissed were originally placed into early retirement. The states did not want to pay the salary for the replacement and the pension for the dismissed professor at the same time. It thus took years to fill open positions in most cases.

The bottom panel of Figure 2 shows the evolution of average department quality in the two types of



departments. Obviously, one would only expect a change in average department quality if the quality of the dismissed professors was either above or below the pre-dismissal department average. The figure demonstrates two interesting points: the dismissals occurred mostly at departments of above average quality and within many of the affected departments the dismissed professors were on average more productive than the stayers. As a result, average department quality in affected departments fell after 1933. The graph only shows averages for the two groups of departments. It greatly understates the department level variation I am using in the regression analysis. Some departments with dismissals also lost professors of below average quality as can be seen from Table 2. In those departments average quality increased after 1933.

It is important to note that the fact that most of the dismissals occurred in bigger and better departments does not invalidate the identification strategy as level effects will be taken out by including department fixed effects. The crucial assumption for the validity of this differences-in-differences type strategy is that the trends in affected versus unaffected departments were the same prior to the dismissal. Below I show in various ways that this is indeed the case.<sup>27</sup>

The figure suggests that the dismissal had a strong effect on average department quality and department size. It is therefore possible to use it as an instrument for the endogenous faculty quality and students-faculty-ratio variables. The two first stage regressions are the following.

$$(2) \quad \text{Avg. Faculty Quality}_{dt} = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2(\text{Dismissal induced Reduction in Faculty Quality})_{dt} \\ + \gamma_3(\text{Dismissal induced Increase in Students-per-Faculty ratio})_{dt} \\ + \gamma_4\text{Female}_{idt} + \gamma_5\text{Foreigner}_{idt} + \gamma_6\text{Cohort}_t + \gamma_7\text{DepartmentFE}_d + \varepsilon_{idt}$$

$$(3) \quad \text{Students-per-Faculty}_{dt} = \delta_1 + \delta_2(\text{Dismissal induced Reduction in Faculty Quality})_{dt} \\ + \delta_3(\text{Dismissal induced Increase in Students-per-Faculty ratio})_{dt} \\ + \delta_4\text{Female}_{idt} + \delta_5\text{Foreigner}_{idt} + \delta_6\text{Cohort}_t + \delta_7\text{DepartmentFE}_d + \varepsilon_{idt}$$

Equation (2) is the first stage regression for average faculty quality. The main instrument for average faculty quality is the ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’. It measures how much average faculty quality fell due to the dismissals. The variable is 0 until 1933 for all departments. After 1933 it is defined as the pre-dismissal average quality of all professors in the department minus the average quality of the professors who were not dismissed (if the dismissed were of above average quality).

$$\text{Dismissal induced Reduction in Faculty Quality} = (\text{Avg. Pre-1933 Quality}) - (\text{Avg. Pre-1933 Quality}|\text{Stayer})$$

In departments with above average quality dismissals (relative to the department average) it will be positive after 1933. The variable remains 0 for all other departments. The implicit assumption is therefore that dismissals of below average quality professors did not positively affect Ph.D. student outcomes.<sup>28</sup> The following example illustrates the definition of the instrumental variable. Average faculty quality in Göttingen in 1932 (before the dismissals) was 2.1 citation weighted publications

<sup>27</sup>The fact that mostly bigger and better departments were affected, however, influences the interpretation of the IV estimates. According to the LATE framework pioneered by Imbens and Angrist (1994) the IV estimates measure the effect of a change in department quality and students-per-faculty ratio in bigger and better departments. As nowadays most mathematics departments are bigger than the average in the early 20th century this LATE effect is arguably more interesting than the corresponding ATE.

<sup>28</sup>An alternative way of defining the dismissal induced change in faculty quality would be to allow the dismissal of below average quality professors to have a positive impact on department quality and thus Ph.D. student outcomes. In specifications not reported in this paper I have explored this possibility. The results are unchanged.

per year on average. In 1933 some outstanding professors with citations that were higher than the department average were dismissed. Average quality of the remaining professors was only 1.7 (citation weighted publications). In 1934 another professor with above average citations was dismissed. After that average quality of the remaining professors was only 1.1. For Göttingen the variable is 0 until 1933 (as I use a one year lag in the department variables it is 0 for 1933 inclusive). In 1934 the value of the ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’ variable is  $2.1-1.7=0.4$ . From 1935 onwards the value of the variable is  $2.1-1.1=1$ . Higher values of the ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’ variable therefore reflect a larger fall in average department quality.

The instrument for students-faculty-ratio is driven by the number of dismissals in a department. It measures how much student-faculty-ratio increased due to the dismissals. It is 0 before 1933. After 1933 it is defined as follows:

$$\text{Dismissal induced Increase in Students-Faculty-Ratio} = \frac{(\text{1932 Student Cohort})}{(\# \text{ of Profs. in 1932} - \# \text{ of Dismissed Profs.})} - \frac{(\text{1932 Student Cohort})}{(\# \text{ of Profs. in 1932})}$$

Suppose a department had 50 students in its potential 1932 cohort. Before the dismissals there were 10 professors. The students-per-faculty ratio before 1933 would therefore be  $50/10 = 5$ . In 1933 5 professors were dismissed. So the new students-per-faculty ratio would be  $50/(10-5) = 10$ . The ‘Dismissal induced Increase in Students-per-Faculty ratio’ for this department would be 0 until 1933 and  $\frac{50}{(10-5)} - \frac{50}{10} = 5$  thereafter.

The dismissals between 1933 and 1934 may have caused some Ph.D. students to change university after 1933. This switching behavior, however, will be endogenous. To circumvent this problem I assign each Ph.D. student the relevant dismissal variables for the department she attended at the beginning of 1933.

The effect of the dismissals is likely to be correlated within a department. I therefore account for any dependence between observations within a department by clustering all regression results at the department level. This not only allows the errors to be arbitrarily correlated for all researchers in one department at a given point in time but it also allows for serial correlation of these error terms.

Using the dismissals as instrumental variables relies on the assumption that the dismissals had no other effect on Ph.D. student outcomes than through its effect on faculty quality and department size and thus students-faculty-ratio. It is important to note that any factor affecting all German Ph.D. students in the same way, such a possible decline of journal quality, will be captured by the yearly Ph.D. cohort effects and would thus not invalidate the identification strategy. As students in unaffected departments act as a control group, only factors changing at the same time as the dismissals and exclusively affecting students in departments with dismissals (or only students at departments without dismissals) may be potential threats to the identification strategy. In the following I discuss some of these potential worries.

One of the main worries is that departments with many Jewish professors also attracted more Jewish students. If Jewish students were better on average than other students and if many Jewish students quit the Ph.D., average outcomes in departments with dismissals would have fallen just because all good Jewish students were no longer studying there. I show below that all results hold if I exclude Jewish students from the regressions.

Another worry is that disruption effects during the dismissal years could drive my findings. I show, however, that omitting the turbulent dismissal years 1933 to 1934 from my regressions does not affect my findings.

One may also be concerned that other policies by the Nazi government affected professors who remained in Germany only in departments with dismissals (or only in departments without dismissals). This could affect student outcomes in the respective department. A potential example may be that less ardent Nazi supporters remained in departments with dismissals compared to departments without dismissals. This could negatively affect the early career of their students. In a different paper I investigate many factors that could differentially affect professors in affected and unaffected departments (see Waldinger, 2009). I show that the dismissals were unrelated to the number of ardent Nazi supporters, to changes in funding, and promotion incentives of professors. It is therefore unlikely that direct effects on professors are driving my Ph.D. student results.

Any differences-in-differences type strategy relies on the assumption that treatment and control groups did not follow differential trends over time. I test this assumption in two ways. First, I show that most results are not affected by including linear department specific time trends in the regressions. This approach would not address the problem if differential trends were nonlinear. I therefore estimate a so-called placebo experiment only using the pre-dismissal period of the data and moving the dismissal from 1933 to 1930. Columns (5) to (8) of Table A3 report the results for the placebo experiment. The coefficients are all close to 0 and none of them is significant. In two of the four regressions the coefficient even has the opposite sign from the results of the true reduced form. This makes it particularly unlikely that differential time trends explain my findings.

## 5 The Effect of Faculty Quality on Ph.D. Student Outcomes

An interesting starting point for the empirical investigation is the comparison of Ph.D. student outcomes in departments with dismissals compared to those of students in departments without dismissals. Figure 3 shows the evolution of three Ph.D. student outcomes in the two sets of departments. The top panel of the figure shows the probability of publishing the dissertation in a top journal for different Ph.D. cohorts in departments with above average quality dismissals (dashed line) and departments without dismissals. Before 1933, the probability of publishing the dissertation in a top journal is always above 0.4 in departments which later on experience dismissals of professors. Students graduating from those departments in the years after 1933, however, have a much lower probability of publishing their dissertation in a top journal. The probability of publishing the dissertation varies from year to year in departments which do not experience any dismissals but it does not change substantially after 1933.

The middle panel of Figure 3 shows the probability of becoming full professor later in life for Ph.D. students graduating in a certain year. It is evident that the data is much more noisy for this outcome. One reason for this is that becoming full professor is a relatively low probability event. As average Ph.D. cohort size across all universities is only about 50 students per year (across all departments with above average quality dismissals it is only about 17) it is not surprising that the probability of becoming full professor varies substantially from year to year. Nonetheless, one can see a relatively sharp drop in affected departments in 1933 and an even more substantial drop towards the end of the sample period.

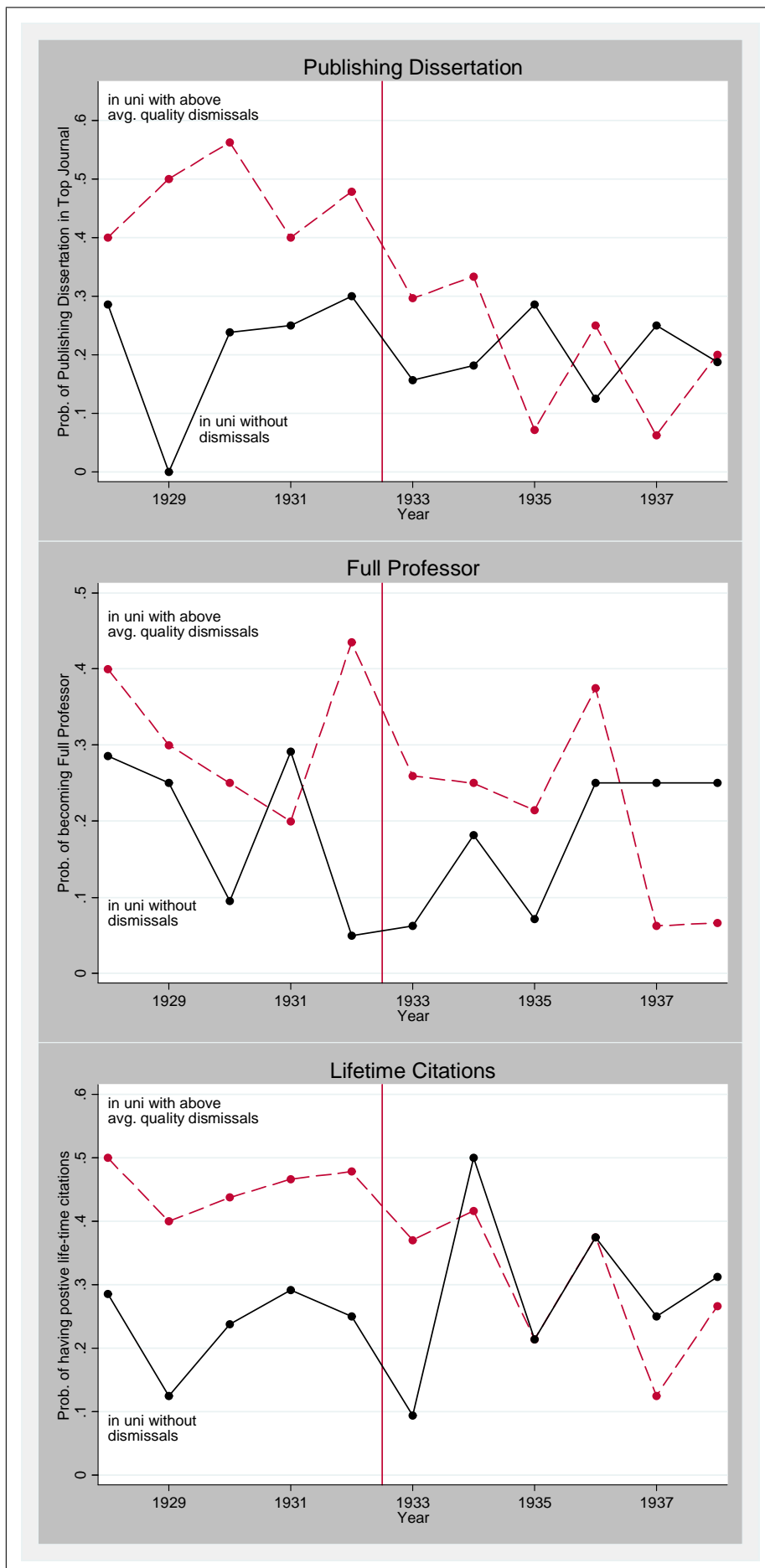


Figure 3: The Dismissal of Professors and PhD Student Outcomes

The probability of having positive lifetime citations in mathematics journals is plotted in the bottom panel of Figure 3. In departments with dismissals of above average quality the probability of having positive lifetime citations is always higher before 1933. After 1933, however, the probability of positive lifetime citations declines and is eventually below the probability of students who graduate from departments without dismissals.

The graphical analysis suggests that Ph.D. student outcomes in affected departments deteriorate after the dismissal of high quality professors. Again it is important to highlight that the figure understates the variation I am using in the regression analysis. In the regressions I use ample department level variation in changes to faculty quality and students-faculty ratio. In the first 4 columns of appendix Table A3 I therefore report regression results of the reduced form.<sup>29</sup> The ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’ has a strong negative impact on Ph.D. student outcomes which is always significant at the 1 percent level.<sup>30</sup> The ‘dismissal induced increase in students-faculty-ratio’ never has a significant effect on Ph.D. student outcomes. Columns (5) to (8) of Table A3 show the results from the placebo test suggested before where I estimate the effect of a placebo dismissal in 1930. I only use the pre-dismissal period and investigate whether students in departments which later experienced dismissals were already on a downward trend before 1933. The results suggest the opposite, if anything. None of the coefficients is significantly different from 0 and in fact two of the four coefficients on the ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’ have the opposite sign. These results strongly support the view that the dismissal of professors can be used as a valid source of exogenous variation in faculty quality and students-faculty-ratio.

In the following, I investigate the effect of faculty quality and students-faculty ratio on Ph.D. student outcomes using the regression model proposed above. As discussed before, both faculty quality and students-faculty-ratio are endogenous. Using the dismissal as an instrument can overcome these endogeneity problems. Table 5 reports the two first stage regressions equivalent to equations (2) and (3) presented before. Some of the students may have reacted to the dismissal of professors by changing departments after 1933. I address this problem by assigning the department fixed effect for all post 1933 years according to the department which a student attended at the beginning of 1933.<sup>31</sup>

Column (1) reports the first stage regression for faculty quality. As expected the ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’ has a strong and highly significant effect on average faculty quality. The ‘dismissal induced increase in students-per-faculty ratio’ does not affect faculty quality. The second first stage regression for students-faculty-ratio is reported in column (2). In this case, ‘dismissal induced reduction in faculty quality’ has no significant effect. The ‘dismissal induced increase in students-per-faculty ratio’ variable which is driven by the number of dismissals in a department is a strong and highly significant predictor of the students-per-faculty ratio. This pattern is very reassuring as it indicates that the dismissal indeed provides two orthogonal instruments: one for average faculty quality and one for students-faculty-ratio.

A common concern in IV estimation is bias due to weak instruments as highlighted by Bound, Jaeger,

<sup>29</sup>The estimated reduced form equation is:

$$\text{Outcome}_{idt} = \beta_1 + \beta_2(\text{Dismissal induced Reduction in Faculty Quality})_{dt} + \beta_3(\text{Dismissal induced Increase in Students-per-Faculty ratio})_{dt} + \beta_4\text{Female}_{idt} + \beta_5\text{Foreigner}_{idt} + \beta_6\text{CohortFE}_t + \beta_7\text{DepartmentFE}_d + \varepsilon_{idt}$$

<sup>30</sup>The Ph.D. student data only includes students who have finished their Ph.D.. The dismissals may have caused some post 1933 Ph.D. students in affected departments to quit the Ph.D. altogether. It is quite likely that these quitters were in fact the weakest students. In that case my results would underestimate the true effect of the dismissals on Ph.D. student outcomes.

<sup>31</sup>Only students who finished their Ph.D. before 1933 or who had at least started their undergraduate studies at the beginning of 1933 are included in my sample.

and Baker (1995) and Stock, Wright, and Yogo (2002). In this paper there are two endogenous regressors and two instruments. Using a simple F-test on the instruments would be misleading because the instruments not only have to be strong but one also needs at least as many instruments as endogenous regressors. Stock and Yogo (2005) therefore propose a test based on the Cragg-Donald (1993) minimum eigenvalue statistic to test for weak instruments. Stock and Yogo calculate the critical value of the Cragg-Donald eigenvalue statistic to be equal to 7.03 for a model with 2 endogenous regressors and two instruments. I report the Cragg-Donald eigenvalue statistic at the bottom of Table 5. As it clearly exceeds the critical value there is no worry of weak instrument bias in this context.<sup>32</sup> Table 6 reports the OLS and IV results. The regressions are estimated for a sample of students that have started their degree before January 1933 because I assign the dismissal variables according to the university attended at the beginning of 1933 for those who finish their Ph.D. after 1933. This rules out the possibility that the results are driven by an inability to recruit good students at the places that lost professors. Columns (1) and (2) show the effects of faculty quality and students-faculty-ratio on the probability of publishing the dissertation in a top journal. Faculty quality has a strong positive and significant effect on the probability of publishing the dissertation. Students-faculty-ratio, however, does not affect the outcome. The IV estimate of faculty quality is not only highly significant but it is also economically relevant. The standard deviation in faculty quality across departments is about 1.3. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality therefore increases the probability of publishing the dissertation by about 13 percentage points.<sup>33</sup>

Column (4) reports the IV results for becoming full professor later in life. Again the IV coefficient on faculty quality is positive and highly significant. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality increases the probability of becoming full professor by about 10 percentage points. Students-faculty-ratio does not affect the probability of becoming full professor.

The IV result for lifetime citations in mathematics journals is reported in column (6). The coefficient on faculty quality is positive and highly significant. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality translates into an increase in lifetime citation by 6.3. This is again a very sizeable effect because the average Ph.D. student has about 11 lifetime citations. Similar to the results on previous outcomes students-per-faculty ratio has no effect on lifetime citations.

Lifetime citations counts are usually quite skewed. Because mathematicians receive fewer citations than other researchers this is less of a problem in this sample as can be seen from Table 4. Nonetheless, I investigate whether outliers are driving the lifetime citation result using an indicator for positive lifetime citations as the dependent variable. The results are reported in column (8) of table 6. The regression suggests that the lifetime citation results are not driven by outliers. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality increases the probability of having positive lifetime citations by about 16 percentage points.

---

<sup>32</sup>As the number of instruments is equal to the number of endogenous regressors the model is just identified. Just identified models typically suffer less from weak instruments. Stock and Yogo (2005), however, characterize instruments to be weak not only if they lead to biased IV results but also if hypothesis tests of IV parameters suffer from severe size distortions. It may therefore happen that one obtains a significant IV coefficient which is actually not significantly different from 0. To test whether this problem can potentially affect IV estimates Stock and Yogo propose values of the Cragg-Donald (1993) minimum eigenvalue statistic for which a Wald test at the 5 percent level will have an actual rejection rate of no more than 10 percent. As outlined in the main text the critical value in this context is 7.03 and thus way below the Cragg-Donald statistics reported for the regressions in this paper.

<sup>33</sup>Interestingly, some of the IV standard errors are slightly smaller than the corresponding OLS ones. This only occurs when I cluster the standard errors at the department level. As the IV residuals are different from the OLS residuals the intra-department correlations of these residuals may be smaller in the IV case. If I do not cluster, all results remain very similar and highly significant and OLS standard errors are always larger than IV standard errors.

The coefficients on the control variables reveal some interesting patterns. Women have about the same probability of publishing their dissertation in a top journal compared to men. Women's long-term outcomes, however, are significantly worse than men's. They have a lower probability of becoming full professor later in life and have less lifetime citations. They also seem to have a lower probability of having positive lifetime citations even though the coefficient is not significant at conventional levels. Foreigners have about the same probability of publishing their dissertation in a top journal compared to Germans. They also have a similar number of lifetime citations and a similar probability of having positive lifetime citations. The probability of becoming full professor is, however, significantly lower for foreigners compared to German Ph.D. students.

In the following, I report a large number of checks indicating that these findings are very robust. The results are reported in Table 7. Unlike the previous tables, each column reports regression results from four separate regressions; each with one of the four Ph.D. student outcomes as the dependent variable.

First, I add 28 dummies indicating different occupations of the father.<sup>34</sup> The results are reported in column (2) of Table 7 (column (1) reports the baseline results). It is reassuring that the inclusion of these powerful individual controls hardly affects the results.

It is extremely unlikely that students could forecast the dismissal of professors because the expulsion occurred just two months after the Nazi party came into power.<sup>35</sup> Nonetheless, I address this concern by investigating a sample of students that started studying between 1922 and 1930. In this sample, all of those affected by the dismissals should have been well attached to their programs when the dismissal shock occurred but there was no way of forecasting the dismissals at the time they started studying. Again, the results are very similar as reported in column (3).

One may worry that the results are mostly driven by Jewish students. They may have been the best students studying in the best universities which later experienced more dismissals. Jewish students faced substantial difficulties after 1933. One would therefore find a drop in the probability of publishing the dissertation, becoming full professor, or in the number of lifetime citations for students in affected departments which is not caused by a fall in faculty quality. I investigate this issue by re-estimating the regressions for non-Jewish students only, as reported in column (4). Encouragingly, the results hardly change. This indicates that the results are not driven by Jewish students.

Another worry is that student life in the dismissal years may have been disrupted. This may have had a direct effect on student outcomes. I therefore re-estimate the regressions omitting the years 1933 and 1934 in which most of the dismissals took place. Interestingly, the point estimates reported in column (5) are now larger in most cases. This indicates that students who finished their Ph.D. in the early years after the dismissal actually suffered less than students who finished later and were thus exposed to the fall in faculty quality for a longer time period. It is thus relatively unlikely that acute disruption effects can explain my findings.

A related concern is that students' outcomes may have worsened because of the direct disruption caused by the loss of their advisor not necessarily because of a fall in faculty quality. I investigate this concern by estimating the regressions focusing on students who were still doing coursework at the beginning

---

<sup>34</sup>The data includes very detailed information on father's occupation. Unfortunately the information is missing for about 30 percent of the data. I include an additional dummy for all those who do not have any information on their father's occupation.

<sup>35</sup>Even forecasting the fact that the Nazi party would form part of the government would have been very difficult. The Nazi party actually lost votes between the elections of July and November 1932 (which was the last free election). By the beginning of 1933, many political commentators were even suggesting that the threat of the Nazi party gaining power was abating.

of 1933 and who had thus not yet started working on their dissertation with a specified advisor.<sup>36</sup> Reassuringly, the results reported in column (6) are unchanged. This indicates that students who had not yet started their dissertation were equally affected by the dismissals. This strongly suggests that the loss of Ph.D. supervisor is not driving my results.

Finally, I investigate whether differential time trends across departments can explain my findings by including linear department specific trends. The results are reported in column (7). The coefficient on the probability of publishing the dissertation in a top journal falls substantially but remains significant. The coefficient on the probability of becoming full professor changes very little and remains significant at the 1 percent level. The coefficients on the lifetime citation measures, however, are no longer significant at conventional levels. In the regression with the number of lifetime citations as the dependent variable the point estimate remains similar to the previous point estimates but only has a p-value of 0.12. The coefficient on the indicator for positive lifetime citations falls substantially and is no longer significant. This is a very demanding test as department specific time trends will also take out some of the true effect of the fall in university quality.

One defining feature of these results is that the IV point estimates are higher than the corresponding OLS estimates. Measurement error of faculty quality is likely to be an important reason for this. Black and Smith (2006) highlight that measurement error is likely to affect any measure of university quality. In this context, measurement error attenuates the OLS estimates because average citation weighted publications are not perfectly measuring those aspects of faculty quality which are important for Ph.D. students. Furthermore, the Web of Science publications and citations data only include the first letter of the first name. This will introduce further measurement error in the faculty quality variable.

Another important reason for obtaining higher IV estimates is the fact that these estimates can be interpreted as a Local Average Treatment Effect (LATE) as suggested by Imbens and Angrist (1994). The dismissals mostly affected high quality departments. It is quite likely that the compliers in this setup have indeed very high returns to changes in faculty quality as students in these departments are much more research oriented. They may therefore respond more strongly to changes in faculty quality. Table 8 shows OLS and IV results for students in top 10 departments (ranked by average faculty quality) and students in lower ranked departments. It is obvious that both the OLS and the IV returns to faculty quality are higher for students in top departments. Furthermore, the low Cragg-Donald EV statistic for the lower ranked department indicates that the instruments do not affect faculty quality and department size in lower ranked departments.

## 6 Conclusion

This paper uses the dismissal of professors by the Nazi government to identify the effect of faculty quality on Ph.D. student outcomes. I show that the dismissals had indeed a very strong effect on average faculty quality and students-faculty-ratio. I then use the exogenous variation in faculty quality and students-faculty-ratio to estimate their effect on short and long-term outcomes of Ph.D. students. Faculty quality is found to have a very sizeable effect on the career of former Ph.D. students. A one standard deviation increase in average faculty quality increases the probability of publishing the

---

<sup>36</sup>For the pre-1933 cohorts I include all students, of course, as they were by definition not doing coursework anymore.



dissertation in a top journal by about 13 percentage points. Furthermore, faculty quality during Ph.D. training is also very important for the long-run career of former students. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality increases the probability of becoming full professor by about 10 percentage points. Furthermore, faculty quality has a strong effect on lifetime citations. A one standard deviation increase in faculty quality leads to an increase of lifetime citations by 6.3 and increases the probability of having positive lifetime citations by 16 percentage points. Student-faculty-ratio does not seem to affect Ph.D. student outcomes.

The results suggest that, even in highly selective education markets where some may claim that the main value of the degree is the signal that it sends concerning the talent required to obtain entry and complete the program, the quality of instruction matters greatly for future outcomes. The results presented above could of course be partly driven by signaling if journal editors and future employers would discriminate sharply between a student from Göttingen who graduated before 1933 and a student who graduated after 1933. It is, however, unlikely that Göttingen's reputation fell so sharply in a single year. If the reputation of universities with dismissals did not fall very sharply the results are likely driven by large differences in human capital that Ph.D. students received during their training. This suggests that attending high quality Ph.D. programs does have real effects on the human capital of Ph.D. students. This result is very different to the findings of Van Ours and Ridder (2003). Their results from three Dutch universities suggest that the main value of good supervisors is to attract good students.

From a policy perspective these results suggest that the most efficient way of training Ph.D. students is to have large Ph.D. programs in a small number of very high quality departments. In pre WWII Germany, Göttingen and Berlin jointly produced more than 20 percent of all mathematics Ph.D. students. The best five universities produced about 28 percent of all mathematics Ph.D. students at the time. Today the best five universities in Germany produce only about 8.5 percent of all mathematics Ph.D. students. In fact, none of the best five German mathematics departments (according to the faculty's research output) are among the top 5 producers of Ph.D. students today.<sup>37</sup> The less optimal organization of Ph.D. student training may have been an important factor contributing to the decline of Germany science after WWII. In the United States, however, the best research universities are also the main producers of Ph.D. students. My findings suggest that this is a very productive way of organizing Ph.D. training that should be further encouraged by science policy makers.

My results on the effect of local department quality on Ph.D. student outcomes are particularly interesting if they are contrasted with findings in Waldinger (2009). That paper, investigates how the dismissal of professors affected the productivity of professors who remained in Germany after 1933. Interestingly, dismissals in the local department do not affect the productivity of staying professors. That suggests that the quality of the local department is not important for more senior researchers who already have a professional network outside their university. Ph.D. students, however, do not have any such network and are therefore particularly dependent of studying in a department with high quality faculty.

---

<sup>37</sup>The data on current PhD students in Germany comes from CHE (2009). Quality of departments is measured by publications. While there were 32 mathematics PhD student producing universities in Germany in the 1920s and 30s, 62 German universities produce mathematics PhDs today.

## References

- [1] Abele, Andrea E., Helmut Neunzert, Renate Tobies (2004) *Traumjob Mathematik - Berufswege von Frauen und Männern in der Mathematik*, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel.
- [2] Bergmann, Birgit and Moritz Epple (2009) *Jüdische Mathematiker in der deutschsprachigen akademischen Kultur*, eds. Bergmann, Birgit and Moritz Epple, Springer Verlag, Berlin.
- [3] Black, Dan A. and Jeffrey A. Smith (2004) "How robust is the evidence on the effects of college quality? Evidence from matching", *Journal of Econometrics*, vol. 121.
- [4] Black, Dan A. and Jeffrey A. Smith (2006) "Estimating Returns to College Quality with Multiple Proxies for Quality", *Journal of Labor Economics*, vol. 24, no. 3.
- [5] Bound, John, David A. Jaeger, and Regina M. Baker (1995) "Problems with Instrumental Variables Estimation When the Correlation between the Instruments and the Endogenous Explanatory Variables is Weak", *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 49.
- [6] Brewer, Dominic, Eric Eide, and Ronald Ehrenberg (1996) "Does it Pay to Attend an Elite College? Cross Cohort Evidence on the Effects of College Type on Earnings", *Journal of Human Resources*, vol. 24.
- [7] Carrell, Scott E. and James E. West (2008) "Does Professor Quality Matter? Evidence from Random Assignment of Students to Professors", *NBER Working Paper*, no. 14081.
- [8] CHE (2009) *Das CHE Forschungsranking deutscher Universitäten 2009 - Mathematik 2009*, CHE gemeinnütziges Zentrum für Hochschulentwicklung, Gütersloh.
- [9] Cragg, John G. and Stephen G. Donald (1993) "Testing identifiability and specification in instrumental variables models", *Econometric Theory*, vol. 9.
- [10] Dale, Stacy and Alan B. Krueger (2002) "*Estimating the Payoff to Attending a More Selective College: an Application of Selection on Observables and Unobservables*", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, vol. 117, no. 4.
- [11] Gesellschaft für Exilforschung (1998) *Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration 1933-1945 - Einleitung*, Eds.: Krohn, Claus-Dieter, Patrick von zur Mühlen, Gerhard Paul, Lutz Winkler, Primus Verlag, Darmstadt.
- [12] Hartshorne, Edward Y. (1937) *The German Universities and National Socialism*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge.
- [13] Hentschel, Klaus (1996) *Physics and National Socialism - An Anthology of Primary Sources*, Birkhäuser Verlag, Berlin.
- [14] Hoffmann, Florian and Philip Oreopoulos (2009) "Professor Qualities and Student Achievement", *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 91, no. 1.
- [15] Hussain, Iftikhar, Sandra McNally, and Shqiponja Telhaj (2009) "University Quality and Graduate Wages in the UK", *CEE Discussion Paper*, no. 99.

- [16] Imbens, Guido and Joshua Angrist (1994) "Identification and Estimation of Local Average Treatment Effects", *Econometrica*, vol. 62, no. 2245.
- [17] Kröner, Peter (1983) *Vor fünfzig Jahren - Die Emigration deutschsprachiger Wissenschaftler 1933 - 1939*, edited by Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte Münster, Heckners Verlag, Wolfenbüttel.
- [18] Lorenz, Charlotte (1943) *Zehnjahres-Statistik des Hochschulbesuchs und der Abschlußprüfungen*, Berlin.
- [19] Notgemeinschaft Deutscher Wissenschaftler im Ausland (1936) *List of Displaced German Scholars*, London.
- [20] von Olenhusen, Albrecht G. (1966) "Die 'nichtarischen' Studenten an den deutschen Hochschulen - Zur nationalsozialistischen Rassenpolitik 1933-1945", *Vierteljahreshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, vol. 14, no. 2.
- [21] Reid, Constance (1996) *Hilbert*, Springer, New York.
- [22] Röder, Werner and Herbert Strauss (1992) *Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933 - Vol. II : The arts, sciences, and literature*, edited by Institut für Zeitgeschichte München and Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration, Inc., New York.
- [23] Siegfried, John J. and Wendy A. Stock (2002) "The Market for New Ph.D. Economists in 2002" *American Economic Review*, vol. 94, no. 2, Papers and Proceedings.
- [24] Siegmund-Schultze, Reinhard (1998) *Mathematiker auf der Flucht vor Hitler*, Deutsche Mathematiker Vereinigung, F. Vieweg.
- [25] Stock, Wendy A., T. Aldrich Finegan, and John J. Siegfried (2006) "Attrition in Economics Ph.D. Programs", *American Economic Review*, vol. 96, no. 2.
- [26] Stock, J. H., Wright, J. H. and Yogo, M. (2002). "A survey of weak instruments and weak identification in generalized method of moments", *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, vol. 20, no. 4.
- [27] Stock, James H. and Motoshiro Yogo (2005) "Testing for Weak Instruments in Linear IV Regression", in *Identification and Inference for Econometric Models: Essays in Honor of Thomas Rothenberg*, eds. Donald W.K. Andrews and James H. Stock, Cambridge University Press, New York.
- [28] Tobies, Renate (2006) *Biographisches Lexikon in Mathematik promovierter Personen - an deutschen Universitäten und Technischen Hochschulen WS 1907/08 bis WS 1944/45*, Dr. Erwin Rauner Verlag, Augsburg.
- [29] Van Ours, Jan C. and Geert Ridder (2003) "Fast track or failure: a study of graduation and dropout rates of Ph.D. students in economics" *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 22, no. 2.
- [30] Waldinger, Fabian (2009) "Peer Effect in Science - Evidence from the Dismissal of Scientists in Nazi Germany", *mimeo University of Warwick*.

## 7 Tables

**Table 1: Number of Dismissed Mathematics Professors**

Year of Dismissal	Number of Dismissed Professors	% of all Mathematics Professors in 1933
1933	35	15.6
1934	6	2.7
1935	5	2.2
1936	1	0.4
1937	2	0.9
1938	1	0.4
1939	1	0.4
1940	1	0.4
1933 - 1934	41	18.3

**Table 2: Dismissals across different Universities**

University	Number of Professors Beginning of 1933	Dismissed 1933-34		Dismissal Induced $\Delta$ to Department Quality
		#	in %	
Aachen TU	7	3	42.9	+
Berlin	13	5	38.5	--
Berlin TU	14	2	14.3	+
Bonn	7	1	14.3	+
Braunschweig TU	3	0	0	0
Breslau	6	3	50.0	--
Breslau TU	5	2	40.0	--
Darmstadt TU	9	1	11.1	+
Dresden TU	10	0	0	0
Erlangen	3	0	0	0
Frankfurt	8	1	12.5	+
Freiburg	9	1	11.1	-
Giessen	7	1	14.3	+
Göttingen	17	10	58.8	--
Greifswald	3	0	0	0
Halle	7	1	14.3	+
Hamburg	8	0	0	0
Hannover TU	6	0	0	0
Heidelberg	5	1	20.0	+
Jena	5	0	0	0
Karlsruhe TU	6	1	16.7	0
Kiel	5	2	40.0	+
Köln	6	2	33.3	+
Königsberg	5	2	40.0	-
Leipzig	8	2	25.0	-
Marburg	8	0	0	0
München	9	0	0	0
München TU	5	0	0	0
Münster	5	0	0	0
Rostock	2	0	0	0
Stuttgart TU	6	0	0	0
Tübingen	6	0	0	0
Würzburg	4	0	0	0

This table reports the total number of professors in 1933. # Dismissed indicates how many professors were dismissed in each department. % Dismissed indicates the percentage of dismissed professors in each department. The column "Dismissal Induced  $\Delta$  to Department Quality" indicates how the dismissal affected average department quality: -- indicates a drop in average department quality by more than 50%; - a drop in average department quality between 0 and 50%; 0 no change in department quality; + an improvement in average department quality between 0 and 50%.

**Table 3: Quality of Dismissed Professors**

	All	Stayers	Dismissed 33-34	
			#	% Loss
# of professors (beginning of 1933)	224	183	41	18.3
# of chaired profs.	117	99	18	15.4
Average age (1933)	48.7	50.0	43.0	-
Avg. publications (1925-1932)	0.33	0.27	0.56	31.1
Avg. citation weighted publications (1925-1932)	1.45	0.93	3.71	46.8

% Loss is calculated as the fraction of dismissed professors among all professors or as the fraction of publications and citations which were contributed by the dismissed professors.

**Table 4: Summary Statistics PhD Students**

	All	Obtaining PhD in Top 10 Department	Obtaining PhD in lower ranked Department
Average age at PhD	27.5	26.9	28.1
Average time to PhD in years (from beginning of studies)	7.4	7.2	7.7
% Female	8.7	8.2	9.2
% Foreign	7.5	9.7	5.3
Average # of university changes (from beginning of studies)	1.1	1.1	1.2
<i>Outcomes:</i>			
% obtaining high school teacher diploma as additional degree	51.6	42.3	61.2
% published dissertation in top journal	24.1	29.5	18.3
% became chaired professor later in life	18.7	25.0	12.1
Average lifetime citations	11.2	16.6	5.5
% with positive lifetime citations	29.9	37.8	21.6
% with lifetime citations > 25	9.0	13.1	4.7
% with lifetime citations > 100	3.2	4.8	1.5
# of PhD students	690	352	338

Note: Summary statistics are based on all 690 PhD students in the sample. Information on average age at PhD is available for 667 individuals. Average time to PhD is available for 579 individuals. Information on the number of university changes is available for 626 individuals.

**Table 5: First Stages**

	(1)	(2)
<i>Dependent Variable:</i>	Average Quality	Students- Faculty Ratio
Dismissal Induced	-1.236**	-4.195
Fall in Faculty Quality	(0.074)	(2.058)
Dismissal Induced	0.014	0.439**
Increase in Students-per-Faculty-Ratio	(0.008)	(0.116)
Female	0.142*	1.165
	(0.060)	(0.705)
Foreigner	0.046	-1.971
	(0.097)	(1.183)
Cohort Dummies	✓	✓
University FE	✓	✓
Observations	690	690
R-squared	0.795	0.757
Cragg-Donal EV Statistic		25.2

\*\*significant at 1% level      \*significant at 5% level  
(All standard errors clustered at department level)

**Table 6: Instrumental Variables**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<i>Dependent Variable:</i>	Published Top		Full Professor		Number of Lifetime Citations		Positive Lifetime Citations	
	OLS	IV	OLS	IV	OLS	IV	OLS	IV
Average Faculty Quality	0.056** (0.018)	0.102** (0.015)	0.037 (0.021)	0.076** (0.015)	2.388* (1.119)	4.901** (1.546)	0.068* (0.026)	0.125** (0.016)
Students-Faculty Ratio	0.000 (0.001)	0.003 (0.002)	0.000 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.003)	0.040 (0.106)	-0.284 (0.328)	0.002 (0.001)	0.003 (0.004)
Female	-0.015 (0.059)	-0.022 (0.055)	-0.099* (0.041)	-0.103** (0.036)	-8.711** (2.756)	-8.850** (2.436)	-0.090 (0.068)	-0.099 (0.062)
Foreigner	0.014 (0.048)	0.022 (0.045)	-0.134* (0.053)	-0.135* (0.053)	0.803 (5.136)	0.016 (5.262)	-0.025 (0.072)	-0.019 (0.074)
Cohort Dummies	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Department FE	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Observations	690	690	690	690	690	690	690	690
R-squared	0.163		0.155		0.080		0.126	
Cragg-Donald EV Statistic		25.2		25.2		25.2		25.2

\*\*significant at 1% level

\*significant at 5% level

(All standard errors clustered at department level)

**Table 7: Robustness Instrumental Variable Results**

		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Full Sample	Full Sample	Starting 1922 to 1930	Non Jewish Students	Omitting 1933 & 1934	Students doing Coursework	Full Sample
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable: Published</i>	0.102** (0.015)	0.109** (0.015)	0.096** (0.019)	0.094** (0.018)	0.124** (0.019)	0.144** (0.040)	0.048* (0.022)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Top</i>	0.003 (0.002)	0.001 (0.003)	0.002 (0.003)	0.002 (0.003)	0.001 (0.003)	0.008 (0.014)	0.004 (0.005)
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable: Full</i>	0.076** (0.015)	0.082** (0.016)	0.057** (0.014)	0.065** (0.019)	0.091** (0.020)	0.069* (0.033)	0.055** (0.019)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Professor</i>	-0.001 (0.003)	-0.002 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.005)	-0.004 (0.003)	-0.004 (0.003)	0.013 (0.008)	-0.006 (0.003)
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable: Number of</i>	4.901** (1.546)	6.038** (1.658)	5.588** (1.684)	4.066** (1.233)	6.102** (2.078)	5.448** (1.973)	4.540 (2.922)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Lifetime Citations</i>	-0.284 (0.328)	-0.272 (0.247)	-0.272 (0.353)	0.213 (0.291)	-0.534 (0.375)	0.246 (0.446)	-0.058 (0.266)
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable: Positive</i>	0.125** (0.016)	0.136** (0.017)	0.120** (0.018)	0.106** (0.020)	0.130** (0.028)	0.174** (0.040)	0.012 (0.030)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Lifetime Citations</i>	0.003 (0.004)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.003 (0.003)	0.001 (0.004)	0.001 (0.004)	0.004 (0.013)	-0.010 (0.011)
Controls		<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Father's Occupation			<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Cohort Dummies		<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Department FE		<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Dep. Specific Time Trends								<i>yes</i>
Observations		690	690	542	635	570	501	690
Cragg-Donald EV Statistic		25.2	21.6	18.7	23.5	17.1	6.4	15.1

\*\*significant at 1% level

\*significant at 5% level

(All standard errors clustered at department level)

Note: This table only shows regressors of interest. The results in the four panels correspond to separate regressions with an indicator for publishing the dissertation in a top journal, an indicator for becoming full professor, number of lifetime citations, and an indicator for positive lifetime citations as the respective dependent variables. Regressors not listed are indicators for being female and foreigner. See text for details.

**Table 8: Heterogeneity in Returns**

		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		Top 10 Department		Lower Ranked Department	
		OLS	IV	OLS	IV
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable:</i>	0.059**	0.094**	0.012	-0.214
	<i>Published</i>	(0.014)	(0.022)	(0.032)	(0.259)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Top</i>	-0.001	0.002	0.001	0.016
		(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.002)	(0.026)
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable:</i>	0.046*	0.074**	-0.086*	-0.065
	<i>Full</i>	(0.017)	(0.019)	(0.034)	(0.214)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Professor</i>	-0.001	-0.001	0.001	-0.000
		(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.023)
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable:</i>	2.092*	2.667**	-4.570	-6.032
	<i>Number of</i>	(0.685)	(0.557)	(3.396)	(24.717)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Lifetime</i>	0.071	0.156	0.023	0.158
	<i>Citations</i>	(0.167)	(0.211)	(0.156)	(2.914)
Average Faculty Quality	<i>Dep. Variable:</i>	0.092**	0.138**	-0.055	-0.164
	<i>Positive</i>	(0.016)	(0.020)	(0.043)	(0.204)
Students-Faculty Ratio	<i>Lifetime</i>	-0.001	0.003	0.003	0.007
	<i>Citations</i>	(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.002)	(0.020)
Controls		<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Cohort Dummies		<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Department FE		<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Observations		352	352	338	338
Cragg-Donald EV Statistic			30.0		0.8

\*\*significant at 1% level

\*significant at 5% level

(All standard errors clustered at department level)

Note: This table only shows regressors of interest. The results in the four panels correspond to separate regressions with an indicator for publishing the dissertation in a top journal, an indicator for becoming full professor, lifetime citations, and an indicator for positive lifetime citations as the respective dependent variables. Regressors not listed are indicators for being female and foreigner. See text for details.



## 8 Appendix

Figure A1: Sample Page from List of Displaced German Scholars

Mathematics

---

M A T H E M A T I C S

**BAER, Dr. Reinhold**, Privatdozent; b. 02., married, 1 child. (English.) 1926/28: Assistant, later Privatdozent Freiburg University; 1928/33: Privatdozent Halle University; 1933/34: Researcher Manchester University; since 1935: Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (N.J.). SPEC.: *Pure Maths.*; *Foundation Theory of Sets*; *Theory of Groups*; *Fields' Algebraic Theory*; *Topology*; *Algebraic Theory of Differential Equations*. Temp.

**BAERWALD, Hans Georg**, see ENGINEERING. PHYSICS.

**BERGMANN, Dr. Stephan**, Privatdozent; b. 97., single. 1922/23: Assistant Institut für Angewandte Mathematik, Berlin University; 1924/31: Researcher and Industrial Activity, Lodz; 1932/33: Privatdozent Berlin University; since 1934: State University, Tomsk. SPEC.: *Pure and Applied Maths.*; *Theory of Elasticity*; *Conformal Representation*; *Differential Equations*; *Hydrodynamics*; *Theory of Functions*. Perm.

**BERNAYS, Dr. Paul**, a.o. Professor; b. 88., single. (English, French.) 1917/33: Privatdozent, later a.o. Prof. Göttingen University and Assistant Mathematisch-Physikalisches Seminar; 1934/35: Lecturer Technische Hochschule, Zürich; 1935/36: Visiting Lecturer Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (N.J.); 1936/37: Eidgenössisches Polytechnikum, Zürich. SPEC.: *Logic*; *Foundation of Mathematics*. Temp.

**BERNSTEIN, Dr. Felix**, o. Professor; b. 78., married, 2 children. (English.) 1904/08: Privatdozent Halle University; 1908/33: Privatdozent, later o. Prof. Göttingen University; since 1934: Columbia University, New York. SPEC.: *Statistics*; *Group Theory*; *Calculation of Probability*; *Insurance*; *Finance*. Temp.

**BLUMENTHAL, Dr. Otto**, o. Professor; b. 76., married, 2 children. (English, French, Italian, Russian, Dutch, Bulgarian.) 1901/04: Privatdozent Göttingen University; 1905/33: o. Prof. Technische Hochschule, Aachen; since 1906: Editor "Mathematische Annalen." SPEC.: *Pure and Applied Maths.*; *Theory of Functions*; *Hydrodynamics*. Unpl.

**BOCHNER, Dr. Salomon**, Dozent; b. 99. Till 1933: Dozent Munich University; since 1933: Princeton University. Perm.

**BRAUER, Dr. Richard**, Privatdozent; b. 01., married, 2 children. (English, French.) 1925/33: Assistant, later Privatdozent Königsberg University; 1934/35: Assistant Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (N.J.); since 1936: Assistant Prof. Toronto University. SPEC.: *Pure Maths.*; *Algebra*; *Group Theory*; *Theory of Hypercomplex Numbers*. Perm.

**BREUER, Dr. Samson**, a.o. Professor; b. 91., married, 6 children. (English, French, Hebrew.) 1921/33: Privatdozent, later a.o. Prof. Technische Hochschule, Karlsruhe; 1928/33: Dozent Frankfurt University; since 1934: Industrial Activity, Jerusalem. SPEC.: *Pure and Applied Maths.*; *Algebra*; *Insurance*; *Statistics*. Perm.

**COURANT, Dr. Richard**, o. Professor; b. 88., married, 4 children. (English.) 1912/33: Privatdozent, later o. Prof. Göttingen University; 1933/34: Lecturer Cambridge University; since 1935: New York University. SPEC.: *Pure Maths*. Perm.

**DEHN, Dr. Max**, o. Professor; b. 78., married, 1 child. (English, French, Norwegian.) 1911/13: a.o. Prof. Kiel University; 1913/21: o. Prof. Technische Hochschule, Breslau; 1921/35: o. Prof. Frankfurt University. SPEC.: *Pure Maths.*; *Analysis*; *Algebra*; *History of Mathematics*. Unpl.

**DINGLER, Dr. Hugo**, see PHILOSOPHY.

**FELLER, Dr. Willy**, Privatdozent; b. 06., single. (English, French, Croatian.) 1926/28: Assistant Göttingen University; 1928/33: Privatdozent Kiel University; since 1934: Institute of Mathematics, Stockholm University. SPEC.: *Pure and Applied Maths.*; *Differential Geometry*; *Modern Theory of Real Functions*. Temp.

**FENCHEL, Dr. Werner**, Assistant; b. 05., married. (English, Italian, Danish.) Till 1933: Assistant Göttingen University; since 1934: Matematisk Institut, Copenhagen. SPEC.: *Pure and Applied Maths.*; *Geometry*; *Analysis*; *Mathematical Methods of Economics*. Temp.

**FRAENKEL, Dr. Adolf**, o. Professor; b. 91., married, 4 children. 1916/28: Privatdozent, later a.o. Prof. Marburg University; 1928/33: o. Prof. Kiel University; since 1933: Prof. Hebrew University, Jerusalem. SPEC.: *Pure Maths.*; *Theory of Sets*; *Arithmetic*; *Borderline of Philosophy*. Perm.

**GOLOMB, Dr. Michael**, Researcher; b. 09., single. (English, French, Italian, Spanish.) 1933: Researcher Berlin University; since 1934: Zagreb. SPEC.: *Pure Maths.*; *Analysis of Functions*; *Differential and Integral Equations*. Unpl.

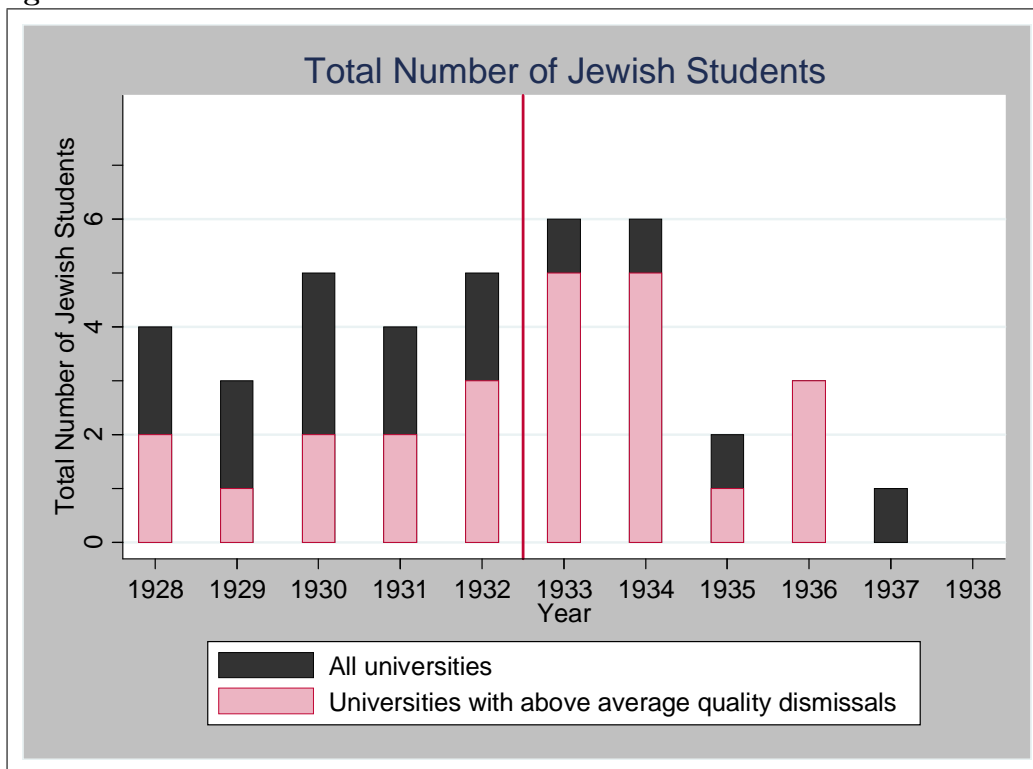
**GRADSTEIN, Dr. Stephan**, see PHYSICS, ENGINEERING.

**GUMBEL, Dr. Emil J.**, a.o. Professor; b. 91., married, 1 child. (English, French, Italian.) 1923/33: Privatdozent, later a.o. Prof. Heidelberg University; since 1933: Lyons University. SPEC.: *Applied Maths.*; *Statistics*; *Calculus of Probability*; *Actuarial Science*. Perm.

51



**Figure A2: Total Number of Jewish Students**



**Table A1: Top Journals**

Journal Name	Published in
<b>Mathematics</b>	
Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik	Germany
Mathematische Annalen	Germany
Mathematische Zeitschrift	Germany
Zeitschrift für angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik	Germany
Acta Mathematica	Sweden
Journal of the London Mathematical Society	UK
Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society	UK
<b>General Science</b>	
Naturwissenschaften	Germany
Sitzungsberichte der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften Physikalisch Mathematische Klasse	Germany
Nature	UK
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London A (Mathematics and Physics)	UK
Science	USA
<b>Physics</b>	
Annalen der Physik	Germany
Physikalische Zeitschrift	Germany
Physical Review	USA
<b>Chemistry</b>	
Berichte der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft	Germany
Biochemische Zeitschrift	Germany
Journal für Praktische Chemie	Germany
Justus Liebig's Annalen der Chemie	Germany
Kolloid Zeitschrift	Germany
Zeitschrift für Anorganische Chemie und Allgemeine Chemie	Germany
Zeitschrift für Elektrochemie und Angewandte Physikalische Chemie	Germany
Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie	Germany
Journal of the Chemical Society	UK

**Table A2: Top 20 Mathematics Professors 1925-1932 (Citation weighted Publications Measure)**

Name	University Beginning of 1933	Avg. Citation weighted Publications (1925-1932)	Avg. Publicatons (1925-1932)	Dismissed 1933-34
Johann von Neumann	Berlin	36.3	1.5	<i>yes</i>
Richard Courant	Göttingen	22.3	1.3	<i>yes</i>
Richard von Mises	Berlin	15.6	0.9	<i>yes</i>
Heinz Hopf		13.3	1.3	
Paul Epstein	Frankfurt	11.5	0.6	
Oskar Perron	München	10.6	1.5	
Willy Prager	Göttingen	10.0	0.4	<i>yes</i>
Gabiel Szegö	Königsberg	9.4	1.4	<i>yes</i>
Werner Rogosinski	Königsberg	9.1	0.6	
Wolfgang Krull	Erlangen	8.9	1.4	
Erich Rothe	Breslau TU	8.0	1.0	<i>yes</i>
Hans Petersson	Hamburg	8.0	2.0	
Adolf Hammerstein	Berlin	8.0	0.5	
Alexander Weinstein	Breslau TU	6.3	0.7	<i>yes</i>
Erich Kamke	Tübingen	6.3	0.8	
Hellmuth Kneser	Greifswald	6.3	0.6	
Bartel van der Waerden	Leipzig	5.8	1.8	
Max Müller	Heidelberg	5.3	0.3	
Richard Brauer	Königsberg	5.0	0.6	<i>yes</i>
Leon Lichtenstein	Leipzig	4.9	1.5	<i>yes</i>

The university in 1933 is missing for professors, who retired before 1933.

**Table A3: Reduced Form and Placebo Test**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Reduced Form				Placebo Moving Dismissal to 1930 (only pre-1933 observations)			
<i>Dependent Variable:</i>	Published Top	Full Professor	# of Lifetime Citations	Positive Lifetime Citations	Published Top	Full Professor	# of Lifetime Citations	Positive Lifetime Citations
Dismissal Induced	-0.134**	-0.090**	-6.137**	-0.164**	-0.023	0.053	3.434	-0.037
Fall in Faculty Quality	(0.017)	(0.021)	(2.218)	(0.019)	(0.031)	(0.037)	(5.597)	(0.030)
Dismissal Induced Increase in Students-Faculty Ratio	0.002	0.000	-0.042	0.002	-0.004	-0.002	-0.462	-0.002
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.114)	(0.002)	(0.004)	(0.005)	(0.431)	(0.003)
Female	0.004	-0.119*	-10.723*	-0.067	0.009	-0.167*	-12.114**	-0.104
	(0.048)	(0.045)	(4.459)	(0.058)	(0.066)	(0.068)	(4.228)	(0.071)
Foreigner	0.031	-0.147*	0.942	-0.033	-0.017	-0.136	-7.169	-0.050
	(0.048)	(0.065)	(6.151)	(0.075)	(0.103)	(0.102)	(6.479)	(0.134)
Father's Occupation	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cohort Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Department FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Observations	690	690	690	690	403	403	403	403
R-squared	0.221	0.208	0.185	0.208	0.302	0.291	0.224	0.260

\*\*significant at 1% level

\*significant at 5% level

(All standard errors clustered at the department level)

**CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**  
**Recent Discussion Papers**

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 984 | Brian Bell<br>Stephen Machin<br>Francesco Fasani                              | Crime and Immigration: Evidence from Large Immigrant Waves  |
| 983 | Nicholas Bloom<br>Carol Propper<br>Stephan Seiler<br>John Van Reenen          | The Impact of Competition on Management Quality: Evidence from Public Hospitals   |
| 982 | Nicholas Bloom<br>John Van Reenen   | Human Resource Management and Productivity  |
| 981 | Alan Manning  | Imperfect Competition in the Labour Market  |
| 980 | Ana Fernandes<br>Heiwai Tang  | The Determinants of Vertical Integration in Export Processing: Theory and Evidence from China   |
| 979 | Stephen Machin<br>Olivier Marie<br>Sunčica Vujić                              | The Crime Reducing Effect of Education  |
| 978 | Andrew B. Bernard<br>J. Bradford Jensen<br>Stephen Redding<br>Peter K. Schott | Intra-Firm Trade and Product Contractibility (Long Version)   |
| 977 | Albrecht Ritschl<br>Samad Sarferaz  | Crisis? What Crisis? Currency vs Banking in the Financial Crisis of 1931  |
| 976 | Joshua D. Angrist<br>Jörn-Steffen Pischke                                     | The Credibility Revolution in Empirical Economics: How Better Research Design is taking the Con out of Econometrics                                 |
| 975 | Holger Breinlich<br>Alejandro Cuñat   | Trade Liberalization and Heterogeneous Firm Models: An Evaluation Using the Canada – US Free Trade Agreement  |
| 974 | Facundo Albornoz<br>Hector Calvo-Pardo<br>Gregory Corcos<br>Emanuel Ornelas   | Sequential Exporting  |
| 973 | Marco Fugazza<br>Frédéric Robert-Nicoud                                       | The ‘Emulator Effect’ of the Uruguay Round on US Regionalism  |
| 972 | Andreas Georgiadis<br>Christos N. Pitelis                                     | The Interrelationship between HR, Strategy and Profitability in Service SMEs: Empirical Evidence from the UK Tourism Hospitality and Leisure Sector |

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 971 | John T. Addison<br>Alex Bryson<br>Paulino Teixeira<br>André Pahnke               | Slip Sliding Away: Further Union Decline<br>in Germany and Britain                          |
| 970 | Nicholas Bloom<br>Raffaella Sadun<br>John Van Reenen                             | Recent Advances in the Empirics of<br>Organizational Economics                              |
| 969 | Nicholas Bloom<br>John Van Reenen  | New Approaches to Measuring<br>Management and Firm Organization                             |
| 968 | Andrew B. Bernard<br>J. Bradford Jensen<br>Stephen J. Redding<br>Peter K. Schott | Wholesalers and Retailers in U.S. Trade<br>(Long Version)                                   |
| 967 | Pooyan Amir Ahmadi<br>Albrecht Ritschl   | Depression Econometrics: A FAVAR<br>Model of Monetary Policy During the Great<br>Depression |
| 966 | Nicholas Bloom<br>Raffaella Sadun<br>John Van Reenen                             | Does Product Market Competition Lead<br>Firms to Decentralize?                              |
| 965 | Ralf Martin  | Why is the US so Energy Intensive?<br>Evidence from Multinationals in the UK                |
| 964 | Christian A. L. Hilber<br>Frédéric Robert-Nicoud                                 | Origins of Land Use Regulations: Theory<br>and Evidence from US Metro Areas                 |
| 963 | Maria Bas<br>Juan Carluccio  | Wage Bargaining and the Boundaries of the<br>Multinational Firm                             |
| 962 | L. Rachel Ngai<br>Christopher A. Pissarides                                      | Welfare Policy and the Distribution of<br>Hours of Work                                     |
| 961 | Caroline Freund<br>Emanuel Ornelas   | Regional Trade Agreements   |
| 960 | Francesco Caselli<br>Guy Michaels  | Do Oil Windfalls Improve Living<br>Standards? Evidence from Brazil                          |
| 959 | Iga Magda<br>David Marsden<br>Simone Moriconi                                    | Collective Agreements, Wages and<br>Restructuring in Transition                             |
| 958 | Carlos Daniel Santos   | Recovering the Sunk Costs of R&D: the<br>Moulds Industry Case                               |