Bio and Statement for IIF Elections 2021

I am Malte Knüppel, a Senior Economist at the Research Centre of the Deutsche Bundesbank (the German central bank) in Frankfurt, Germany. I received my PhD in Economics from Hamburg University in 2004, and it was my work at the Bundesbank – especially preparations for the first publication of its projections in 2007 – that directed my interests towards forecasting. Since then, I have contributed to respective working groups of the European System of Central Banks, organised workshops on forecasting and, above all, devoted my research time to forecast-related topics.

Most of my research deals with the evaluation of forecasts, forecast uncertainty and survey forecasts, often with a focus on macroeconomics or finance. Yet, especially when it comes to evaluation, ideas from other fields, such as weather or energy forecasting, have often proven very interesting and useful. This truly interdisciplinary nature of forecasting is one of the features that I enjoy the most. Another important aspect for me is the strong connection between theory and practice, which is not to be taken for granted in economics.

My papers have been published in the International Journal of Forecasting, the Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, the Journal of Applied Econometrics and other peer-reviewed journals. They benefitted very much from comments I received at the various ISFs I have attended since my first participation in 2011. These meetings have always been instructive and very inspiring – to a great extent due to their international and interdisciplinary set-up – and I am looking forward to this year’s ISF and many more to come.

I feel very honoured to be nominated for the 2021 Elections for IIF Directors. Having availed myself of the opportunities offered by the IIF for many years, I would be very pleased to contribute to the IIF’s future success by joining its team. The IIF has done an excellent job of bringing together academics and practitioners from various fields of forecasting, and offering young researchers the chance to learn as well as to present and discuss their work. If elected, I will endeavour to help provide an environment where forecasters can thrive, amongst others by organizing workshops on economic forecasting, helping the development of summer schools and contributing to the organization of future ISFs. One key lesson learned from the current pandemic is the importance of good forecasts – and we need many good forecasters to make them.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at future events of the IIF,

Malte

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