

Nico Oefele

PhD

Financial Economist & Quantitative Researcher

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Financial economist with a PhD in Finance, six publications in peer-reviewed journals, and conference presentations including the American Finance Association Annual Meeting 2025. Built a digital trading software and its underlying cloud and container infrastructure from scratch, reaching operational scale within seven months. Previously reported directly to an executive board member at Carl Zeiss AG, supporting work on multinational legal entity management, corporate treasury, and cross-border M&A. Native German speaker, bilingual in English; experienced across Germany, France, and Australia. Active surf lifesaver for five years.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Built a fully operational live price-making desk** from zero, generating AUD 20mn+ in facilitated trading volume within six months
- **Designed proprietary inventory-aware market-making** strategies from first principles, incorporating dynamic spread optimization, real-time position management, and cross-exchange arbitrage detection
- **Architected and deployed production trading infrastructure on AWS** (EC2, S3) with Docker containerization and institutional-grade security hardening
- **Published research in top-tier finance journals** including *Journal of Empirical Finance* and *The Journal of European Finance*; presented at prestigious academic conferences on four continents

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC) / JellyC

Sydney, Australia

Postdoctoral Research Fellow — Quantitative Finance & Trading Technology

Oct 2025 – Present

- Co-designed and fully implemented a live price-making (market-making) desk from scratch targeting stablecoin payment markets; sole authors of all proprietary trading software, built end-to-end
- Developed inventory-aware cross-exchange market-making strategies and pure market-making strategies, integrating dynamic spread logic and inventory skew to manage adverse selection and inventory risk
- Engineered and deployed the full trading infrastructure on AWS (EC2, S3) inside Docker containers; applied security hardening, secret management, and performance optimization for latency-sensitive workloads; integrated exchange REST, WebSocket, and FIX API connectivity across multiple venues
- Managed the AUD/USD FX book via prime broker, executing T+0 spot hedges and swap instruments to neutralise currency exposure; engineered a resilient fallback price feed for continuous operation when the primary feed dropped out

University of Western Australia (UWA)

Perth, Australia

PhD in Finance — Researcher & Lecturer

Feb 2022 – Oct 2025

- PhD thesis titled *The future of non-bank financial intermediation: four essays*, with essays on money market mutual funds, financial stability implications of stablecoins, and digital asset market structure
- Served as Lecturer & Unit Coordinator for Blockchain & DLT in Business (postgraduate); teaching assistant for Investment Analysis, Applied Financial Management, and Managerial Finance (MBA)

Carl Zeiss AG
Advisor — Legal Entity Management, Finance & Controlling

Oberkochen, Germany
Oct 2019 – Jan 2022

- Reported directly to an executive board member; acted as the primary bridge between the board and international finance and legal teams on cross-border entity restructuring and governance
- Provided strategic analysis and decision-support materials for corporate treasury, group financial reporting, and multinational governance decisions at holding-company level
- Coordinated with external counsel, auditors, and regulatory authorities across multiple jurisdictions; built and maintained senior stakeholder relationships

Carl Zeiss AG
Intern & Thesis Student — Corporate Strategy / M&A

Oberkochen, Germany
Jul 2018 – Aug 2019

- Evaluated M&A targets in the optics and medical technology sectors; contributed to financial modelling and due-diligence processes for strategic acquisitions

PUBLICATIONS & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Refereed publications in: *Journal of Empirical Finance* | *Emerging Markets Review* | *The European Journal of Finance*
Research collaborations: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Conference presentations: AFA Annual Meeting 2025 (San Francisco) | Deutsche Bundesbank Research Conference (Eltville, 2024) | International conferences in Dubai, Sydney and Perth (2024)

EDUCATION

PhD in Finance University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia	2022 – 2025
M.A. Auditing, Finance & Governance Valedictorian University of Applied Sciences Aalen, Germany	2017 – 2019
M.Sc. Control, Audit & Corporate Governance Dual-degree exchange ESC Graduate School of Management, Clermont-Ferrand, France	2018 – 2019
B.Eng. Industrial Engineering University of Applied Sciences Aalen, Germany	2014 – 2017

SKILLS

Financial & Strategic: Corporate finance, M&A due diligence, legal entity management, financial modelling, risk management, digital asset markets, investment fund analysis
Technology: Python, AWS, Docker, data analytics, AI-augmented research workflows
Leadership & Communication: Cross-functional team leadership, executive stakeholder management, board-level reporting, academic and practitioner presentations
International: Commercial and academic experience across Germany, France, and Australia; globally networked through top-tier finance conferences

LANGUAGES & AWARDS

German — native speaker **English** — bilingual (C2) **French** — proficient (B1)
Valedictorian, M.A. Finance (2019) | Schmalenbach Scholarship (2019) | UWA PhD Scholarship (2022) | DFCRC Top-up Scholarship (2024)