

## TRIBUTE TO KONRAD MIERENDORFF

August 17, 2021

We are deeply shocked and saddened by the death of our former colleague and friend, Konrad Mierendorff.

Konrad was an intellectual powerhouse who worked on interesting and challenging problems in information and mechanism design. In just ten years after his PhD, Konrad has left his mark with articles in top-tier journals, prestigious grants, the Young Economists' Award, two Editorial Board positions, and a Full Professorship at the University College London.

To us, Konrad's ascend in the profession came as no surprise. When he joined the ESEI group in Zurich in 2010, Konrad already had a paper accepted and several promising revise-and-resubmits under his belt. His flying start benefitted not just him – he had a genuine interest in others' research and generously shared time and advice. He volunteered to set up a mechanism design class that introduced students and faculty alike to frontier research in this area – and to Konrad's rigor and command of highly complex and technical material.

Konrad combined his prowess as a theorist with a great sense of humility and humor. At the start of one of our workshops, twelve people quickly shook hands to introduce themselves and someone pondered, "how many handshakes was that?" After a few quiet seconds, Konrad decisively answered "924" and explained it was  $12 \text{ choose } 2$  ... and then wryly added he should probably check his binomials as 924 handshakes might have taken quite a bit longer.

Konrad was a perfect ambassador for the ESEI group and for market-design research more generally. Shortly after he joined us, he initiated pan-Atlantic linkages with researchers at Columbia University and the University of Toronto. This resulted in a visiting position at Columbia and a stream of high-profile publications that will inspire other researchers for years to come.

The economics profession has lost one of its bright stars, a compassionate teacher, and a great colleague. And many of us have lost a gentle, fun, and caring friend. We feel privileged to have been around Konrad for three years – being able to discuss every topic under the sun with him over lunch, or a cake, at the oval table.



Zurich's ESEI group (the predecessor of the AGORA Centre for Market Design at UNSW Australia) in 2012. From left-to-right: Luke, Bettina, Konrad, Jacob, Philippos, Tobias, and Jingjing.

We will miss Konrad dearly and extend our heartfelt condolences to his loved ones.

Alex Kushnir  
Bettina Klose  
Jacob Goeree  
Jingjing Zhang  
Luke Lindsay  
Philippos Louis