Regensburg, 26.09.2023

Laudatory Speech to David Dorn,
Recipient of the Hermann Heinrich Gossen Award 2023
by Regina T. Riphahn (VfS Chair)

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

it is a great pleasure to welcome you to today's Hermann Heinrich Gossen Award ceremony here at the annual meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik. Every year, the Hermann Heinrich Gossen Award goes to a young scientist under the age of 45 in the German-speaking region. The prize is awarded for outstanding services to the internationalization of economics. The most important selection criteria are publications and citations in internationally renowned scientific journals.

This year's award winner was particularly early in making a name for himself as an excellent scientist with extraordinary methodological skills and creative research designs: I am delighted to announce David Dorn from the University of Zurich as this year's winner of the Hermann-Heinrich-Gossen-Award.

I presume everybody in the room knows our award winner from several publications. It is quite evident: David Dorn's scientific excellence is outstanding. His research helps us to better understand the development of internationally interconnected labor markets. His work is discussed widely, even beyond academia, and is thus having a lasting impact on society.

It was only four years after finishing his dissertation that David Dorn published two of his best-known studies in the American Economic Review. By now, each of them has more than 5,000 citations.

David Dorn's analyses of the "China syndrome" and the "China shock" reached far beyond academic circles. Together with his co-authors, he examines how local labor markets in the United States of America react to China's ascent as a growing economic force since the 1990s. They show that adaption was relatively slow and accompanied by lower job force participation and income losses as well as increased transfer benefits payments. All in all, the authors make clear that advantages for the economy as a whole can go hand in hand with significant regional disadvantages. This puts a spotlight on distributional aspects of income, jobs, and transfer payments on the local level.

In further works, David Dorn provides resounding ideas for a fundamental understanding of recent developments in US labor markets and beyond. In one study on so-called "Superstar Firms," he and his co-authors provide an important contribution to answer why the US observed a decrease in labor's share of GDP. His study on the polarization of the US labor markets explains why we observe an increase in high- and low-skilled labor while experiencing a significant decrease in the middle of the distribution. His research combines theoretical models with state-of-the-art empirical methods. His work is cutting-edge, both in topics and methods. It inspires numerous other researchers and continues to drive the public debate in politics and society.

Dear David Dorn, I most cordially congratulate you on winning the Hermann Heinrich Gossen Award.