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Michael Ahlheim has been a professor of Environmental Economics, Regulatory and Consumer Policy at the Institute of Economics of the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart since 2001. Before that he was a professor of Environmental Economics at the Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus. He holds a doctoral degree in economics (Dr. rer. pol.) and habilitation degree (Dr. rer. pol. habil.) from the University of Heidelberg.

His research covers different topics from environmental economics, but also from regulatory and consumer policy. His main field of research is the economic valuation of environmental changes with a special focus on contingent valuation and choice experiments. As a member of the Collaborative Research Center (Sonderforschungsbereich) No. 565 of the German Science Foundation (DFG) on "Development and Valuation of Disturbed Landscapes" (2001-2003) and the International Collaborative Research Center No. 564 of the German Science Foundation on "Sustainable Landuse and Rural Development in Mountainous Regions of Southeast Asia" (2003-2012) as well as of several interdisciplinary research groups financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) he conducted empirical environmental valuation studies in different countries like China, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Germany.